



BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT.



ANNUAL
REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the Sanitary Inspector

FOR YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31st, 1923.



BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT.



ANNUAL
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of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1923,

on the Sanitary Administration and
Vital Statistics of the Borough of
Port Talbot_____

BY

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Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer
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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

E. W. RICHARDS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors :

WM. F. BISHOP, Senior Sanitary Inspector, C.R.S.I.

A. BISHOP, Sanitary Inspector.

(C.R.S.I. and C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector).

G. A. MORGAN, Sanitary Inspector.

(C.R.S.I. Testamur Sanitary Science, U.C., Wales,

C.R.S.I. as Meat and Food Inspector.

Assoc. R.S.I. Member Inst. Hygiene.)

Matron of Fever Hospital :

Miss H. F. CROSS.

Health Visitors :

Mrs. E. A. THOMAS, C.M.B.

Miss K. HILL, C.M.B. & H.V. Diploma.

Clerk :

Miss D. CUSS.



Borough of Port Talbot.



TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT TALBOT
BOROUGH COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Second Annual Report upon the Sanitary Administration and Vital Statistics of your Borough for the year ended December 31st, 1923.

The arrangement of the Report is in conformity with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health in Circular 451 (Wales). It is to be an Ordinary Report as distinguished from a Survey Report, giving information of a more comprehensive character, required every five years.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

E. W. Richards.

Medical Officer of Health.

APRIL 1st, 1924.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area.

The area of the Borough is 25,458 acres including the foreshore. It extends from Kenfig River near Pyle in the East to Briton Ferry in the West. It extends to about a mile and a half beyond Pontrhydyfen to meet the Glyncoirwg Urban District boundary, and to about a mile beyond Bryn to meet the Maesteg Urban District boundary. It is bounded also Eastwards by the Penybont Rural District, and Westwards by the Neath Borough and by the Neath Rural District.

The land is of a mountainous character, except along the seaboard and in the narrow valleys where it is flat and very low lying, leaving very little room suitable for building purposes.

The highest point in the Borough is on the Margam Mountain, and is 1,200 feet above sea level.

The mountains are on the whole bare and barren, while the plain consists of rich alluvium, and compares favourably with the richest agricultural land in the country. The mountains are rich in coal, and it is considered that their resources have hardly been touched.

The coal area is situated on the southern outcrop, and the anticline runs through the Borough. The latter makes the working of the coal difficult by reason of faults.

The Borough is rich in its historical associations. Evidences of remains have been found in different parts of the Borough, which can be traced back to early British Settlements. The Via Julia Maritima runs through the Borough from East to West, and remains as an important evidence of the Roman occupation. The Norman occupation has left us as evidence the Margam Abbey and its associations.

The prevailing winds are Westerly and South Westerly. Shelter is provided from the Northerly and Easterly winds by the steep mountains.

The rainfall for the district for 1923 was 46.4 inches. This was taken at Taibach, 51 feet above sea level. The rainfall in the hills and in the narrow valleys would probably be much higher. The rainfall for 1922 was 42.27 inches. There were 116 dry days. The heaviest fall occurred in February, when 7.43 inches was recorded. The driest month was June, when 0.80 inches was recorded. The greatest fall in the 24 hours occurred on August 23rd, when 1.37 inches were recorded.

Population.

The estimated population for the mid-year 1923 was 42,310.

The people are employed chiefly in the following industries :—

Coal Mining.—There are several coal mines in the district, the largest being Bryn, Aberbaiden, Cribbwr Fawr and Oakwood. New sinkings have taken place also at Cwmgwineu and Newlands.

Steel Works.

Copper Works.

Tin Works.

Railways and Docks.

Agriculture.

There is comparatively little female labour employed in industry. The ones employed work chiefly in Tinplate and Tin Stamping Works, and a few in the Brickworks. The majority of those employed are unmarried.

The estimated number of houses in the Borough is 7,400. These are figures supplied to me by the Assistant Overseer's Department. No census has been taken, and it is impossible to state correctly the number of houses occupied by more than one family, but judging from the records of house inspections, one could compute that 50 per cent. of the cottage property in the area are occupied by more than one family. The parts of the Borough where overcrowding is most prevalent would be Cwmavon and the Sandfields District.

The rateable value of the area is £203,982 10s. 0d., and the sum represented by a penny rate is £820 0s. 0d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered during the calendar year was 1,004, 506 males and 498 females. Included in the above are 28 illegitimate births, 9 males and 19 females.

The Birth Rate for year then would be 23.7 as compared with 24.3 for the year 1922.

The illegitimate Birth Rate was 0.66, and the percentage of the whole births was 2.7 as compared with 0.59 and 2.4 for 1922.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1923 was 19.7, that of the 105 County Borough and Great Towns including London was 20.4, that of the 157 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted populations 20,000-50,000) 19.8, and that of London 20.2.

The births were distributed in the different Wards as follows :—

Aberavon North Ward	233
Aberavon South Ward	247
Cwmavon Ward	143
Margam West Ward	169
Margam Central Ward	156
Margam North Ward	56

The illegitimate births were distributed as follows :—

Aberavon North Ward	5
Aberavon South Ward	7
Cwmavon Ward	7
Margam West Ward	3
Margam Central Ward	5
Margam North Ward	1

DEATHS.

407 deaths were registered in the Borough. 12 of these were deaths of persons whose ordinary place of residence was outside the Borough.

27 persons whose ordinary place of residence was in the Borough died outside. 20 of these died in institutions outside, and 7 in private residences.

The following are particulars of the transferable deaths :

County Mental Hospital, Bridgend	6
Llettyredd, Neath	7
Swansea Hospital	4
Penrhiewtyn Hospital	1
County Mental Hospital, Gloucester	1
County Mental Hospital, Whittingham	1
Private Residences	7

The nett deaths registered as belonging to the Borough then would be 422, 216 males and 206 females.

The Death Rate then would be 9.9 as compared with 11.8 for 1922.

The general Death Rate was lower during the year, chiefly because influenza and respiratory diseases generally were less prevalent.

The Death Rate for England and Wales for the year 1923 was 11.6, that for the 105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London was 11.6, that for 157 Smaller Towns was 10.6, and that for London 11.2.

The causes of death and the ages at death are found in Table II.

Enteric Fever, Small Pox, Measles and Scarlet Fever.

There were no deaths from the above diseases during the year, as compared with 3 deaths from Measles and 1 death from Scarlet Fever during 1922.

The Death Rates for England and Wales for the above diseases for 1923 was as follows respectively, 0.01, 0.00, 0.14 and 0.03.

Whooping Cough.

There was 1 death from Whooping Cough as compared with 17 deaths during 1922.

The Death Rate for 1923 would be 0.02 as compared with 0.10 for England and Wales generally.

Diphtheria.

There were 4 deaths from Diphtheria, comparing with 8 in 1922. This would give a Death Rate of 0.09 as compared with 0.07 for England and Wales generally.

Influenza.

There were 3 deaths from Influenza, comparing with 12 in 1922. This would give a Death Rate of 0.07 as compared with 0.22 for England and Wales.

Tuberculosis.

There were 44 deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis. The respiratory system was affected in 39 cases, and other systems in 5 cases. 24 were males and 20 females.

This compares with 50 cases during 1922.

The Tuberculosis Death Rate then would be 1.04, compared with 1.2 for 1922.

The deaths were distributed in the Wards as follows :—

Aberavon North Ward	9
Aberavon South Ward	11
Cwmavon Ward	7
Margam West Ward	9
Margam Central Ward	6
Margam North Ward	2

The ages at death of those affected with Pulmonary Tuberculosis were as follows :—

Under 15 years	.....	1
15 years and under 25 years	.....	12
25 ,, ,, 35 ,,	.....	7
35 ,, ,, 45 ,,	.....	9
45 ,, ,, 55 ,,	.....	4
55 ,, ,, 65 ,,	.....	5
Over 65 ,,	.....	1

The occupations followed were as follows :—

Household Duties	.....	12
Colliery Workers	.....	9
No Occupation	.....	5
Labourer	.....	3

1 followed each of the following occupations :—

Tailor's Assistant.
Domestic Servant.
School Teacher.
Carpenter.
Platelayer.
Railway Engine Driver.
Tinworks Millman.
Accountant.
Shopkeeper.
Tinplate Worker.

The ages at death of those who were affected by Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were as follows :—

Under 5 year	.....	4
5 years and under 15 years	.....	1

In 3 cases the bowel was affected, and in 2 cases the meninges of the brain,

Cancer.

There were 41 deaths from Cancer, 14 males and 27 females. This gives a Death Rate of 0.9 as compared with 40 cases last year, with a Death Rate of 0.9. The ages at death from Cancer were as follows :—

Under 25 years	.....	0
25 years and under 35 years	.....	2
35 ,, ,, 45 ,,	.....	7
45 ,, ,, 55 ,,	.....	4
55 ,, ,, 65 ,,	.....	15
65 ,, over	.....	13

It is thus seen that 32 deaths out of 41 occurred in persons over 45 years of age.

The organs primarily affected by the disease were as follows :—

Breast	.....	10	Spleen	.....	1
Uterus	.....	5	Rectum	.....	1
Colon	.....	4	Oesophagus	.....	1
Stomach	.....	3	Thyroid	.....	1
Larynx	.....	2	Arm	.....	1
Pancreas	.....	2	Brain	.....	1
Adomen	.....	2	Bladder	.....	1
Glands	.....	2	Mediastinum	.....	1
Liver	.....	1	Not stated	.....	2

Rheumatic Fever.

There were no deaths from Rheumatic Fever as compared with 3 during last year.

Diabetes.

There were 4 deaths from Diabetes as compared with 5 for last year. This gives a Death Rate of 0.09.

Cerebral Haemorrhage.

There were 22 deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage as compared with 23 for last year. This gives a Death Rate of 0.5.

Heart Disease.

There were 55 deaths from Heart Disease, giving a Death Rate of 1.3 as compared with a rate of 0.92 for last year.

Arterio Sclerosis.

There were 13 deaths from Arterio Sclerosis as compared with 10 last year. This gives a Death Rate of 0.3.

Bronchitis.

There were 31 deaths from Bronchitis as compared with 51 last year. This gives a Death Rate of 0.7.

Pneumonia.

There were 30 deaths from Pneumonia as compared with 60 for last year. This gives a Death Rate of 0.7 as compared with 1.4 last year.

The Death Rate from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Respiratory Diseases generally is much lower this year, because Influenza was not so prevalent during the year.

Other Respiratory Diseases.

There were 9 deaths from other Respiratory Diseases as compared with 4 for 1922. This gives a Death Rate of 0.2.

Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum.

There were 5 deaths from Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum as compared with 2 in 1922. This gives a Death Rate of 0.13.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis (Under 2 years).

There were 6 deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years, 4 males and 2 females as compared with 9 in 1922.

Their ages at death were as follows :—

Under 1 month	0
1 month and under 6 months	4
6 months and under 12 months	1
12 months and under 2 years	1

The Death Rate for the year then would be 0.14 as compared with 7.7 for England and Wales.

Cirrhosis of Liver.

There was 1 death from Cirrhosis of the Liver, compared with 1 last year. This is a comparatively rare disease in this part of the country.

Acute and Chronic Nephritis.

There were 14 deaths from Nephritis, compared with 14 for last year. This gives a Death Rate of 0.3.

Puerperal Sepsis and other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition.

There was 1 death from Puerperal Sepsis. During 1922 no deaths occurred. There were 5 deaths from other diseases and accidents of pregnancy and parturition as compared with 3 last year. This gives 6 deaths as a result of Pregnancy or Parturition and a Death Rate of 0.14 as compared with 0.07 last year.

Congenital Debility, Malformation and Premature Birth.

There were 30 deaths from Congenital Debility, Malformation and Premature Birth as compared with 29 for 1922.

Suicide and other Deaths from Violence.

There were 3 deaths from Suicide as compared with 2 for last year. There were 26 other deaths from violence as compared with 22 for 1922.

This gives a total number of 29 deaths from violence, and an annual Death Rate of 0.68. The annual Death Rate of England and Wales from violence is 0.44.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

The seven Zymotic Diseases are Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Fever (including Typhus, Typhoid, Paratyphoid, etc.) and Diarrhoea.

The Zymotic Death Rate is considered as an index of the condition of a district as regards its Sanitary Administration. There were 14 deaths from Zymotic Diseases during the year, giving a Death Rate of 0.3 as compared with 0.9 for 1922. The decrease is due to a smaller number of deaths from Whooping Cough during 1923.

There were 4 deaths of Nonagenarians, the oldest being 91, and 27 of deaths of Octogenarians.

Altogether 83 persons died who had reached the allotted span of three score and ten years.

Inquests.

46 inquests were held during the year as compared with 39 for last year.

The percentage of total deaths then would be 10.9 as compared with 6.9 for the whole country.

7 were held on the deaths of persons whose ordinary place of residence was outside the area.

12 were held on sudden deaths due to disease.

5 were held on deaths due to accidents at the various works.

7 were held on deaths due to colliery accidents, and of these 4 were due to fall of roof.

2 were run over accidents.

1 was due to other accident.

3 were held on deaths due to accidents at the docks.

8 were held on deaths due to road accidents, and of these 5 were run over accidents, and 3 other accidents.

3 were held on deaths due to drowning, and 4 due to burning accidents.

2 were held on deaths due to railway run over accidents.

2 were held on deaths from suicide.

Deaths in Institutions in the Borough.

The following is the number of deaths in institutions in the Borough :—

Borough Fever Hospital	3
Margam Cottage Hospital	8
Aberavon Hospital	16

Infantile Mortality. (See also Table III).

The Infantile Mortality Rate is defined as the number of deaths registered of infants under a year old per 1,000 births registered during the year.

66 infant deaths occurred during 1923, 39 males and 27 females. Included in these are two illegitimate male deaths.

22 or one-third died before they were a week old, while 29 or nearly one-half died before they were a month old.

In the majority of these cases of death at an early age, the causes were operative before the infant was born. The great drop in Infantile Mortality during the last 20 years has occurred chiefly in the number of deaths that take place in the latter months of the first year of life. There has not been a commensurate decrease in the deaths that occur during the first month of life.

This goes to show that efforts in the past have been more effective in ameliorating the conditions of the infant after he was born than in a better ante-natal environment for him. It also shows what line of action should be taken in the future. Particular attention should be paid to the health of the mother during pregnancy, and an efficient midwifery service provided.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the year was 65 as compared with 98 last year. The legitimate mortality rate is 65, while the illegitimate mortality rate is 71. This compares very favourably with the rate for other industrial districts in the county of Glamorgan.

The decrease this year is largely due to the fact that Influenza, Whooping Cough and Measles have been much less prevalent. 45 of the deaths during 1922 were due to Respiratory Diseases as compared with 17 for 1923.

There is a decrease also in Gastric and Diarrhoeal Disease. 16 occurred from these during 1922, compared with 5 during 1923.

29 of the deaths were due to Congenital Causes or causes due to Ante-natal conditions.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1923 was 69, that for 105 County Borough and Great Towns including London was 72, that for the 157 Smaller Towns was 69, and that for London 60.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for a few of the areas within the County was as follows :—

Aberdare	77
Barry	78
Caerphilly	92
Gelligaer	89
Maesteg	72
Mountain Ash	64
Neath Borough	70
Pontypridd	73
Rhondda	86
Neath Rural	78

The total Rate within the County for Urban Districts was 76, and that for Rural Districts 70.

The total Rate for the County was 75.

The distribution of the births and infants deaths and the Infantile Mortality Rate for each Ward in the Borough was as follows :—

Ward.	Births.	Infant Deaths.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
Aberavon North Ward	233	17	72
Aberavon South Ward	247	26	105
Cwmavon Ward	143	6	41
Margam Central Ward	156	6	38
Margam West Ward	169	8	47
Margam North Ward	56	1	17

There were 2 inward transferable infant deaths, both males.

The deaths were distributed over the year as follows :—

January	8	July	3
February	3	August	6
March	7	September	2
April	8	October	5
May	2	November	7
June	7	December	8

For Causes of death and ages at death see Table III.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

53 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. This gives an attack rate of 1.25, compared with 2.73 for 1922, and with 2.23 for the country generally.

Scarlet epidemics tend to recur in cycles of two or three years, and 1923 was a period at the trough of the wave. The disease was also mild in character. A few of the cases were of a septic type, but no death occurred.

41 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Seasonal incidence was as follows :—January 7, February 6, March 6, April 6, May 5, June 0, July 8, August 1, September 1, October 5, November 3, December 5.

HOUSES AFFECTED.—50 houses were affected, 47 with 1 case and 3 with 2 cases. There were no return cases of Scarlet Fever.

Distribution of the cases in the area :—

Aberavon North Ward	13
Aberavon South Ward	9
Cwmavon Ward	4
Margam West Ward	15
Margam Central Ward	5
Margam North Ward	7

Age groups of the persons attacked :—

	yrs. 0-1	yrs. 1-2	yrs. 2-3	yrs. 3-4	yrs. 4-5	yrs. 5-10	yrs. 10-15	yrs. 15-20	yrs. 20-35	yrs. 35-45
Scarlet Fever	0	1	4	4	5	23	11	3	1	1

State of dwellings from which cases were removed, with regard to over-crowding.

Cases treated at home :—

Less than 1 person per room	10
1-2 persons per room	2
2 persons and over per room	0
No. of houses with 2 families	2

Cases removed to the Isolation Hospital :—

Less than 1 person per room	13
1-2 persons per room	27
2 persons and over per room	1
No. of houses with 2 families	6

Diphtheria.

61 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, giving an attack rate of 1.44 as compared with an attack rate of 1.60 for 1922, and a rate of 1.04 for England and Wales. 47 cases were removed to Hospital. The cases have been moderately severe. There were 4 deaths, giving a Mortality Rate of 6.5 as compared with 13.6 for last year.

Seasonal incidence was as follows :—January 2, February 12, March 2, April 1, May 1, June 1, July 2, August 5, September 9, October 11, November 9, December 6.

HOUSES AFFECTED.—55 houses were affected, 51 houses with 1 case, 3 houses with 2 cases, and 1 with 4 cases.

Distribution in the area. The cases were distributed in the area as follows :—

Aberavon North Ward	5
Aberavon South Ward	15
Cwmavon Ward	0
Margam West Ward	18
Margam Central Ward	20
Margam North Ward	3

Age groups of the persons attacked and ages at death :—

	yrs. 0-1	yrs. 1-2	yrs. 2-3	yrs. 3-4	yrs. 4-5	yrs. 5-10	yrs. 10-15	yrs. 15-20	yrs. 20-35
Total Cases	0	3	8	5	4	30	8	1	2
Deaths	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0

State of dwellings from which cases were removed, with regard to over-crowding.

Cases treated at home :—

Less than 1 person per room	11
1-2 persons per room	8
2 persons and over per room	0
No. of houses with 2 families	1

Cases removed to Hospital.

Less than 1 person per room	17
1-2 persons per room	29
2 persons and over per room	1
No. of houses with 2 families	5

Puerperal Fever.

2 cases of Puerperal Fever were notified, 1 from Aberavon South Ward, and 1 from Cwmavon Ward. This gives an attack rate of 0.04 as compared with 0.06 for England and Wales.

No cases occurred last year.

They were notified in November.

One case was fatal.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

1 case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified.

This gives an attack rate of 0.02 as compared with an attack rate of 0.04 during 1922.

The case was visited by the Health Visitor, and was treated at home by its own Medical Attendant and the District Nurse. The recovery was complete and the vision unimpaired.

Erysipelas.

7 cases of Erysipelas were notified, giving an attack rate of 0.16 as compared with 0.32 for England and Wales, and 0.09 for this area in 1922.

There were no deaths from Erysipelas.

The age groups of the persons attacked are as follows :—

yr.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.
0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1

The cases were distributed in the area as follows :—

Aberavon North Ward	1
Aberavon South Ward	2
Cwmavon Ward	1
Margam Central Ward	2
Margam North Ward	1
Margam West Ward	0

Pneumonia.

8 cases of Pneumonia were notified—6 cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia, and 2 cases of Acute Influenzal Pneumonia. The number notified during 1922 was 34.

The cases were distributed in the Borough as follows :—

Aberavon North Ward	5
Aberavon South Ward	2
Cwmavon Ward	1

The seasonal incidence was as follows :—

January	1
February	1
July	4
December	2

Small Pox and Enteric Fever.

No cases of Small Pox or Enteric Fever occurred in the area. 1 case suspected of being Small Pox was notified. This on the day seen, showed considerable resemblance to Small Pox, and it was deemed advisable to remove it for observation to the Swansea Small Pox Hospital as a precautionary measure. All measures were also taken to prevent the spread of infection. After the case had been under observation, it could then be definitely diagnosed as Chicken Pox.

In several other cases I was called to give an opinion. In one case the disease was a rare form of skin affection, and the assistance of the Ministry of Health Medical Officer was sought.

In all the other cases, the disease was Chicken Pox, which was prevalent during the spring and early summer.

Tuberculosis.

61 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, 32 males and 29 females. Of these 45 were Pulmonary, 24 males and 21 females; 16 Non-Pulmonary, 8 males and 8 females. This gives an attack rate of 1.44. The number of cases notified in 1922 was 62.

30 cases were notified to me as having been admitted to Hospital and Sanatoria, 22 Pulmonary cases and 8 Non-Pulmonary cases.

22 cases were notified as having been discharged from Hospitals and Sanatoria, 14 Pulmonary and 8 Non-Pulmonary.

ADMISSIONS.		DISCHARGES.	
Cynlla Hospital	10	Talgarth Sanatorium	4
North Wales Sanatorium	2	Cynlla Hospital	7
Talgarth Sanatorium	7	Glan-Ely Hospital	5
Craig-y-Nos Hospital	3	Craig-y-Nos Hospital	4
Glan-Ely Hospital	5	North Wales Sanatorium	2

New cases of Tuberculosis were notified as follows :—

By the Tuberculosis Physician	40
By the General Practitioner	18
By Medical Officers on admission to Hospital on Form C	3

The Non-Pulmonary cases were affected as follows :—

Tuberculosis of the glands	8
Tuberculous abscess of rib	1
Tuberculous abscess	2
Tuberculosis of the hip joint	3
Tuberculosis of spine	2

The statistics in relation to notifications and deaths from Tuberculosis are as follows :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	1
5-10	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
10-15	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
15-20	4	4	2	0	0	6	0	0
20-25	8	3	2	1	4	2	0	0
25-35	4	6	2	3	4	3	0	0
35-45	3	4	0	2	5	4	0	0
45-55	1	2	0	0	3	1	0	0
55-65	2	1	0	0	3	2	0	0
65 & upwards.....	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	24	21	8	8	21	18	3	2

There is reason to believe that all new cases that came under notice during the year were notified. Most of the cases are notified by the Tuberculosis Physician, to whom they are referred. It was found that several of the deaths from Tuberculosis had not been notified. They were mostly long standing cases, and no record could be found of their notification.

Every case of Tuberculosis is visited by the Health Visitor as soon as notified, and re-visited at intervals. Advice is given on general hygiene, diet and the importance of fresh air, cleanliness, prevention of infection and disposal of sputum. A separate sleeping room is essential for every tuberculosis patient, for his own benefit and for the protection of others. Unfortunately in many instances, this is not available on account of the over-crowded state of some parts of the area.

The treatment of Tuberculosis is in the hands of the Welsh National Memorial. They have an adequate number of Hospital and Sanatorium beds at their disposal, so that the case can be admitted as soon as it is diagnosed.

At the time of their visits, the Health Visitors draw up a list of the contacts who attend the Elementary School. These are later examined at the Routine Inspections of the Schools. Any sanitary defects seen are reported to the Sanitary Inspectors who deal with them.

When a death from Tuberculosis occurs, the rooms are disinfected and the bedding taken away to be steam disinfected at the Hospital.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS AND INVALIDITY DURING THE YEAR.

Mild epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough occurred during the year, at the beginning and towards the end. Chicken Pox was also epidemic all over the area during the first six months of the year. This was at a time when Small Pox was very prevalent in other parts of England and Wales, consequently a close watch had to be kept for any cases that might crop up. It was not deemed necessary to make Chicken Pox a notifiable disease. The nearest cases of Small Pox occurred in the Rhondda in June.

Rheumatism of all forms is prevalent in the Borough, and Pulmonary Diseases were prevalent towards the end of the year, October to December. Infantile Diarrhoea has not been prevalent in the area for some time now.

Chorea has been prevalent amongst children during the year, and a comparatively large number occurring. Follicular Tonsillitis has been prevalent in the area. It affected all ages up to 30-35 and both sexes, and was followed by more definite diseases like Pleurisy, Pneumonia, etc. It was highly infectious, and several members of the family were affected.

NURSING FACILITIES, HOSPITAL FACILITIES, CLINICS, Etc.

There is a Nursing Institute in the area, where three nurses are employed in district nursing. The Institute is maintained by voluntary subscriptions.

A nurse midwife is employed at Bryn, and is maintained chiefly by the Bryn Colliery Workmen.

There is a Tuberculosis Visiting Station in the area. This is attended weekly by the Tuberculosis Physician. It is situated at the Drill Hall, Ynys Street.

There is a Venereal Disease Clinic maintained by the County Council. It is open two days a week for men and one day a week for women. It is situated near the Grand Hotel.

There is a Hospital Committee in the area, which maintains two General Hospitals, one in Sandfields, Aberavon, and the other in Port Talbot. There are 30 beds available altogether, and surgical cases and complicated maternity cases only are admitted. There is a motor ambulance kept ready for any emergency. There is no other public ambulance service in the town; the nearest would be at Bridgend where an ambulance is stationed by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. I have been informed that it is proposed to maintain one in Port Talbot also. This would undoubtedly be a great convenience to the public. Considerable activities take place in first aid work and home nursing, and great interest is being taken in the work by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

There is a good service of first aid at the works here, and some of them are very well equipped for the purpose.

There is a School Clinic for minor ailments held at the Health Department, Taibach, which is well attended.

Borough Isolation Hospital.

The Hospital consists of 40 beds. There are three pavilions, for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever respectively. These together with the laundry, disinfecting pavilion, mortuary and Porter's Quarters are built of galvanised iron and wood upon stone foundations. The administrative block is built of stone, and consists of four rooms.

The building was erected in 1896, and considerable amount of repairs are required every year now. The galvanised sheeting and wood being worn out.

There is a private water supply on the ground.

It is lighted by oil lamps, and heated by means of low pressure hot water.

It is drained to cesspools.

The Hospital is situated about two miles from the town, and the road leading to it is very inaccessible, making the Hospital difficult of administration. A motor ambulance cannot be taken to it without danger, so that a horse ambulance has to be employed. The transport of bad Diphtheria and Typhoid patients is not without some risk, on account of the state of the road.

The expense in haulage is also excessive. Two horses are required for each case admitted, and three horses for each load of coal, etc. The cost of provisioning the Hospital is also more than it would be if it were in a convenient place.

There is a lack of accommodation for the Staff. There are only two bedrooms available in the administrative block, and some of the Staff have to sleep in the small wards. The kitchen is also too small to cope with the arrangements necessary, when the Hospital is full.

When the place was built, the area served was smaller than it is now, and the admissions would only be one-third or one-quarter the number now admitted, so that then the Staff accommodation and kitchen arrangements would be sufficient.

41 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Borough Isolation Hospital during the year. The average stay of a patient in Hospital was 48 days. The longest stay was 79 days. In this case the patient was also suffering from Empyema.

The cases were on the whole mild in character. A few of them were of the septic type. Many of them had a varying degree of Adenitis, and one or two suffered from middle ear disease. None of the patients suffered from Scarlatinal Nephritis, but one or two had slight Scarlatinal Rheumatism.

There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever, and the cures were complete in all cases.

48 cases of Diphtheria were admitted to Hospital during the year, including 1 case notified in 1922, and admitted on January 1st, 1923. The average stay of each patient in Hospital was 39 days, with the exception of the 3 fatal cases.

The longest stay was 89 days. This was a case of general paralysis, in which the heart was seriously involved.

The cases during the year have been moderately severe. 3 of them suffered from severe paralysis, in which the heart was involved. These will recover ultimately without permanent injury. In the case of the fatal ones, one was of the septic type, and only lived four days after admission to Hospital. The other two were of the toxic type, and only lived three days after admission to Hospital.

Several cases suffered from palatal paralysis, but recovery was complete in each case.

The pressure of the work has not been so heavy during the year as in 1922. The admissions were fewer, and the cases have been milder in character. When the work is more than the Staff can cope with, especially when several bad Diphtheria cases are admitted, temporary nurses are employed. The provision of a new Fever Hospital in a more central position has been discussed for about a year. Several sites were fixed upon, and

the Graig-Avon site was inspected by the Ministry of Health Architect, and the Chief Medical Officer of the Welsh Board of Health. On their advice the project was abandoned on account of the expense in building upon it. An alternative site at Groeswen, which in my opinion would be an ideal one, has been proposed by the Council. Negotiations are now taking place with the Margam Estate with reference to it.

The choice of a site which is central and convenient is limited, because the land is quickly taken up for building purposes.

The matter should then be pursued forthwith, or we shall be driven to the extreme ends of the Borough for a site.

When a new Hospital is provided, the old Hospital would serve as a Small Pox Hospital. Maesteg and Glyncoed Urban District Councils are willing to form a Joint Hospital Committee with us, to take over the Hospital and maintain it for Small Pox purposes. In this way it can serve the three areas.

Provision for Small Pox Isolation.

At present the Authority have a temporary arrangement with the Swansea Corporation, whereby cases of Small Pox can be removed for isolation at Waunllwyd, and a motor ambulance is kept for the service.

One case was removed for observation during the year.

Laboratory Work.

All laboratory work is carried out by the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff. The work includes—

Examination of Diphtheria Swabs.

Examination of Sputum for Tuberculosis.

Examination of blood for Typhoid Fever.

Chemical analysis and Bacteriological examination of water.

Examination of milk for Tuberculosis and for a Bacterial count.

A stock of Diphtheria Swabs, Sputum Outfits and Vidal Tests is kept at the Public Health Department. These are supplied to the Medical Attendant of the case, on request. Advantage is taken chiefly of these facilities for the examination of Diphtheria Swabs. In any doubtful case of Diphtheria, the diagnosis can be confirmed often in 24 hours.

Before Diphtheria patients are discharged from hospital, swabs from their throats are taken, and two consecutive negative results are required prior to their being declared free from infection.

During the year work was carried out as follows by the Laboratory :—

EXAMINATION OF WATER :

Chemical Analysis	18
Bacteriological Examination	28
Diphtheria Swabs	89
Vidal Test for Typhoid	1
Blood Film for Typhoid	1
Sputum for Tuberculosis	9
Milk for Tuberculosis	3

The Diphtheria Antitoxin Order 1910, is in force in the area. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free of charge to the Medical Attendant, on request, in Diphtheria or suspected Diphtheria cases.

A supply is kept by Mr. Loveluck, Chemist, Aberavon, and Mr. Williams, Taibach. The Medical Attendant gives a signed requisition, stating the name of the patient and the amount required. This has proved to be a great factor in preventing not only fatal results, but also serious complications and a large amount of crippling. The introduction of Antitoxin treatment has brought down the Mortality Rate for Diphtheria from something like 40 per cent. to 8-10 per cent. The efficiency of its results bears a direct ratio to the promptitude with which it is administered after the case is seen.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee consists of twelve members of the Council, with six co-opted ladies—one from each Ward.

The work carried out includes infant visiting, infant consultation at the Centres, ante-natal visiting, provision of fresh milk and dried milk to expectant and nursing mothers and infants.

Progress has been made in this service during the year. It has generally been found that the parents have taken more interest in the service and more co-operation has been secured, and that the attendance at the Centres has been continuously improving.

Temporary arrangements were made with the Maesteg Urban Council for the admission of maternity cases to their Maternity Home, but no cases were found during the year ready to go. The fee for maintenance then would be £3 3s. 0d. per week. Approval of the Ministry was given to the Council to give assistance to any necessitous cases. The Council also has to undertake to collect any money due to the Maesteg Authority for maintenance.

Approval was given by the Ministry of Health for opening Centres at Aberavon and at Bryn, the former with fortnightly sessions, and the latter with monthly sessions.

Progress has also been made in ante-natal visiting. There is no system of notification of pregnancy in vogue so far, and the Health Visitors have to obtain information of the cases the best way they can.

Before further progress can be made in Maternity and Child Welfare, the Staff has to be increased. It was recommended last year that an additional nurse should be appointed for the service. So much of the Health Visitors' time is taken up at the Centres, that they are not able to carry out home

visiting as frequently as it is desirable. This is the most important part of the Health Visitors' duty, and visits should be paid to the homes at least once a month during the first few months of life. With the present Staff it is impossible to get more than one visit every two or three months. Before any further expansion can take place, medical assistance will also have to be provided. It is impossible for me to do justice to each section of my work when I have to carry out everything single handed. So much of my time is being taken up by school medical inspections and clinics, that very little is left for General sanitation, Maternity and Child Welfare, Hospital, etc.

To form a complete service a Maternity Home should be built, and an ante-natal clinic formed, so that the pregnant mother could be supervised, and that if any abnormality were found, facilities could be offered to remedy it.

At present complicated maternity cases are admitted to the Local Hospitals for treatment.

Health Visiting.

There are two Health Visitors employed, who devote their whole time to Health Visiting. Each child is visited on or before the 10th day after birth and periodically afterwards, the frequency depending upon the conditions found at the first visit and the impression left on the Health Visitor. If the parent is apt to be careless and neglectful or, through no fault of her own lacking the necessary information and experience, an endeavour is made to pay frequent visits. As has been stated, an ideal to be aimed at is a visit at least once a month.

A tactful Health Visitor is generally well received, and her visits are looked forward to. Advice is given by her on infant feeding and clothing, the management and treatment of ordinary minor ailments.

The number of first visits paid to infants during the year was 998, and the number of re-visits paid was 5,814.

Ante-Natal Visiting.

This aspect of the service is one of the most difficult of the duties to be performed by the Health Visitor. There is no systematic method whereby she can obtain knowledge of the cases. She has to rely upon her own observations, and upon any casual information. At the time of her visits, the nurse usually enquires into the present state of general health of the patient, and into the history of any abnormality in previous pregnancies. Advice is given on the general hygiene of pregnancy, and treatment recommended for any minor ailments. Where medical attention is required, the case is referred to her own Medical Attendant, who will attend her later in her confinement.

The total number of visits to ante-natal cases during the year was 149.

Infant Welfare Centres.

Two Centres, one at Taibach, with weekly sessions, and one at Cwmavon with fortnightly sessions continued to carry out their work during the year.

The number of Centres will be increased by two during 1924.

The Centres are well attended on the whole. The attendances at the Taibach Centre reaching 50—60 when the weather is propitious.

The average number of attendances per session for the year at the Taibach Centre was 32, and the average for Cwmavon was 14.2.

The Cwmavon Centre showed a poor attendance at the beginning of the year; it was only opened towards the end of 1922. It showed a distinct improvement towards the end of the year, the attendance reaching 20-25.

375 names were put on the Registers at Taibach during the year, and 92 were put on the Registers at Cwmavon.

The Taibaeh Centre is held at the Old Margam Council Offices. The premises are very suitable and convenient for the Maternity and Child Welfare service. There is a large waiting room with plenty of light, ventilation and heating arrangements. There is also a well lit consultation room. The entrance hall is very convenient for perambulators and go-carts. The only regret is that, the premises are not more central.

The Cwmavon Centre is held at the I.L.P. Institute, Depot Road. The stage serves as a waiting room and weighing room, and an ante-room as a consulting room.

The Centres are in charge of the Medical Officer of Health, who is assisted by the two Health Visitors. Each child is weighed at each attendance, and each one on first attendance is medically examined. They are afterwards kept under observation and periodically seen. Every other child who is seen not to be gaining in weight, or who, in the opinion of the Nurse or mother is not progressing favourably, is seen by the Medical Officer. Advice is given and recommendation made, especially with regard to dieting and hygiene. Treatment is also given for minor ailments, but if anything more in the way of treatment or continuous observation is necessary, the case is referred to its own Medical Attendant or General Hospital.

Power is given to Local Authorities to provide beds for the treatment of infants. There is undoubted need for them in the area, especially when one considers the over-crowded state of the dwellings. Arrangements could be made with the Penrhiewtyn Hospital Authorities when the Education Committee are considering their School Medical Service Scheme with them.

Provision of Milk and Dried Foods.

Free milk and dried milk are provided to necessitous cases, in accordance with the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.

Every necessitous case whose family income comes within a scale approved by the Ministry of Health is provided with milk free, or at half cost as allowed by the Ministry.

Death Enquiries, Still Birth Enquiries, etc.

54 visits were paid by the Health Visitors in order to make enquiries regarding infant deaths, and 38 were made for the same purpose regarding still births. In this way information is derived in order that any evil influence be counteracted.

8 visits were paid to the one Ophthalmia Neonatorum case notified. In this case the recovery of sight was complete.

619 visits were paid for the purpose of relief and other enquiries, making a total of 6,739 visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare.

Midwives Act.

The Midwives Act is administered by the Glamorgan County Council, who act as the Local Supervising Authority. There are 28 midwives practising in the area, 23 being trained and 5 bona fide. There are no midwives employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

During the year 998 births were notified in accordance with the Notification of Births (Extension) Act, 1915. The majority were notified by midwives, a few only being notified by Doctors.

Included in the above are 38 still births, which is 4 per cent. of the live births notified. This is above the usual average for the country.

The causes assigned by the Health Visitors were as follows :—

Prematurity	22
Venereal Disease	3
Prolonged Labour, Instrumental Delivery	3
Suspected Venereal Disease	1
Umbilical Cord round Neck	2
Ante Partum Haemorrhage	1
Tumour of Uterus	1
Macerated Foetus	1
Abnormal Presentations	4
Craniotomy	1
Contracted Pelvis	1
History of fall during Pregnancy	1
Asphyxia	1

The births have been notified promptly, except in a few instances where the Midwife was communicated with. The notifications are checked by the registrations to see that none escape notification.

A portion of the Health Visitors time is taken up also in visiting the cases of Tuberculosis notified. 57 first visits were paid during the year, and 44 re-visits.

The following Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Local Regulations relating to the public health are in force in the District :—

Adoptive Acts.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890.
Private Street Works Act, 1892.
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907.

Bye-Laws and Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses.
Seamens' Lodging Houses (Merchant Shipping Act, 1894).
New Streets and Buildings.
Nuisances.
Offensive Trades.
Removal of House Refuse.
Cleansing of Footways, Pavements, etc.

Regulations have been made under the Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk Shops Order.



**TABULAR SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT DURING THE
YEAR, AND ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS OR BYE-LAWS.**

	Inspection- ions.	Nuisan- ces.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices	Work Done.
House to House Inspections.....	368	—	—		
Other House Inspections.....	1996	—	—		
(a) Structural Defects	1337	205	203	110	39 shoots and downpipes fixed, 26 shoots repaired, 9 new windows fixed, 48 windows repaired, 2 new roofs fixed, 53 roofs repaired, 14 chimneys repaired, 23 grates repaired, 3 new grates fixed, 9 new doors fixed, 20 doors repaired, 32 new floors laid, 35 floors repaired, 8 partitions repaired, 50 plastering repaired, 27 waste pipes repaired, 7 gable ends cemented, 7 stairs repaired, 6 new ovens fixed, 6 boundary walls rebuilt, 15 walls made damp proof, 1 house concreted under floors, 2 new grates fixed, 1 new bath fixed, 2 ventilations provided under floors, 3 new scullery sinks fixed, 2 washing coppers fixed.

Tabular Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Department during the Year.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
(b) Foul Conditions	677	204	203	24	175 systems of drains cleared, 15 dirty houses cleansed, 4 yards cleansed, 12 offensive ditches cleaned, out.
(c) Overcrowding	8	2	1	—	3 nuisances abated.
(d) Unfit for Habitation.....	24	23	23	20	11 houses made reasonably fit for human habitation.
Schools	132	10	10	—	9 drains cleared, 1 water service repaired, 1 roof repaired, 2 waste pipes cleared, 3 drains repaired, 6 flushing tanks repaired, 6 new tanks fixed, 13 w.c.'s repaired, 11 w.c.'s linewashed, 1 ashbin provided.
Ashpits, Privies, & Cesspools	229	25	25	7	13 new pails provided, 13 cesspools filled up, 12 cesspools cleared out.
Stables, Refuse & Manure	394	37	37	1	31 accumulations removed, 3 stables removed from yards, 1 receptacle provided, 1 stable linewashed.

Tabular Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Department during the Year.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Pigstyes and Swinekeeping	305	27	27	12	29 pigstyes removed, 2 styes paved and drained, 1 offensive accumulation of hogwash removed.
Animals Improperly kept	100	31	31	3	25 nuisances abated.
Other Nuisances	62	7	7	1	1 nuisance from rats abated, 2 decomposing carcases buried, 1 nuisance from obstruction over yard removed, 1 offensive exhaust pipe made good.
Slaughter-houses	134	1	1	—	1 slaughterhouse floor repaired.
Meat and Food	426	—	—	—	The following articles have been destroyed :— 1 ton 12 cwt. 1 qr. and 17 lbs. of beef, 78 lbs. of ox tails, 16 lbs. of ox kidneys, 15 lbs of ox liver, 13 ducks, 48 lbs., 27 rabbits, 1 carcase of pork, 20 tins of pine apple chunks, 1 bottle of preserved fruit, 4 tins of fish, 7 tins of tomatoes, 4 tins of milk, 1 tin of preserved meat.
Cowsheds and Dairies	501	66	64	9	15 dairies provided, 1 dairy roof repaired, 2 dairy

Tabular Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Department during the Year.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Cowsheds & Dairies— <i>Continued</i>					walls made good, 24 cowsheds and dairies lime-washed, 11 cowsheds provided with new stalls and mangers, 11 cowshed floors re-constructed, 12 cowsheds drained, 10 cowsheds properly lighted, 10 cowsheds ventilated, 3 water supplies laid on, 11 accumulations of manure removed, 1 cowshed roof repaired, 4 lofts removed from over cows, 2 dirty milking infringements abated, 2 unregistered dairymen registered, 1 unsatisfactory dairy discontinued and dairymen removed register, 2 infringements from keeping of swine in cowshed abated, 1 infringement from stable communicating with dairy abated.
Water Supplies	556	97	96	61	17 water supplies laid on, 37 services repaired, 21 water services relaid, 38 new flushing tanks fixed, 80 flushing tanks repaired, 3 automatic tanks fixed.
Drains, Yards, & W.C.'s	2655	232	226	113	41 systems of drains relaid, 51 systems repaired, 3

Tabular Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Department during the Year.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Drains, Yards & W.C.'s <i>Continued.</i>					systems of drains provided, 11 w.c.'s re-constructed, 86 w.c.'s repaired, 16 systems of drains ventilated, 6 soil and vent pipes repaired, 20 yards re-paved, 10 yards repaired, 5 new inspection chambers built, 2 pail closets converted into w.c.'s, 38 flushing tanks fixed, 80 flushing tanks repaired, 3 automatic tanks fixed.
Infectious Diseases	284	—	—	—	146 rooms and 144 parcels of bedding disinfected, 3 parcels of bedding removed for steam disinfection, 1 parcel of bedding destroyed.
Workshops & Bakehouses	245	26	26	9	13 bakehouses limewashed, 2 workshops cleansed, 2 sanitary arrangements partitioned off, 3 w.c.'s cleansed and limewashed, 3 cisterns covered and protected, 2 artificial lights provided, 1 new flushing tank fixed, 1 roof repaired, 1 waste pipe repaired, sanitary accommodation provided in 1 instance.

Tabular Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Department during the Year.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work done.
Common Lodging Houses	28	—	—	—	
Offensive Trades	49	10	10	2	7 receptacles provided, 1 floor cleansed, 2 proper chimneys provided, 1 fish fryer removed from register.
Housing, Town Planning Inspections & Re-inspections	803	154	154	37	See Special Report.
Totals	11313	1157	1144	409	

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, Etc., ACTS 1909-1919.

The number of inspections and re-inspections made of houses dealt with under the above Acts was 803.

In 154 instances the premises were discovered to be not kept in a reasonable state of repair, and 154 Informal and 37 Statutory Notices were given.

In 22 instances the works required to comply with the Notices have been carried out, and in a number of instances the works necessary are in progress.

David's Row, Cwmavon.

In response to the service of 20 Informal Notices served in respect of David's Row Cwmavon, a declaration was made by the owners that it was their intention to close the houses as unfit for human habitation, and Closing Orders were made in respect of the same. Notices were also served upon the occupiers to quit the premises.

Closing Orders.

Closing Orders were also made in respect of the following premises, by reason of their dilapidated and dangerous condition :—

Bwlch Farm House, Cwmavon.
4, and 5, Pontycymmer Row, Cwmavon.
6, and 7, Graig-y-Tewgoed, Cwmavon.
75, and 77, Greenpark Street, Aberavon.

In one instance only has the Closing Order been obeyed, viz., in respect of 6, Graig-y-Tewgoed, Cwmavon.

Closing Orders Determined.

The two Closing Orders made in the year 1922, in respect of 12, and 13, Maesteg Road, Bryn, were determined during the past year.

Practically the whole of the fronts of these houses were taken down and re-constructed, in order to make the same in a safe condition.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Safeguarding the food supply of the public is an important duty to be performed by the Sanitary Department.

Inspection of food exposed and places where food is prepared is being regularly carried out, and as is seen from the Tabular Summary, a considerable amount was destroyed during the year. In one instance, prosecution was instituted against a person on four counts for exposing unsound meat for sale, with the result that he was fined £17 0s. 0d.

A large consignment of meat was seized at the Ice Factory. This had become decomposed in transit during the hot weather.

In most instances the food was surrendered voluntarily and no proceedings were taken.

In many instances, also the Inspector is called in, and requested to give his opinion as to the soundness of the articles of food.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are six licensed slaughter-houses in the area. The Municipal Slaughter-house is still leased to one of the butchers on the understanding that any butcher has freedom of access for slaughtering.

All the slaughter-houses are small in size, and are not equipped with modern appliances, so that proper facilities are not present for slaughtering.

It was pointed out in last year's Report that there was urgent need for a new public abattoir, to meet with the requirements of a growing Borough like Port Talbot. Under the

present arrangements, it is impossible to carry out a satisfactory inspection of all the meat, whereas with a Municipal Abbatoir all the meat could be kept at one central place for a definite time after slaughtering, for the purpose of inspection.

All the slaughter-houses are regularly inspected, and are on the whole kept clean.

The meat slaughtered in the area is on the whole of good quality.

SALE OF FOODS AND DRUGS, AND MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS.

The Council is not an Authority under the above Acts. The following particulars have been supplied by Superintendent Ben Evans, Glamorgan County Constabulary, who has the duty of carrying out the provisions of the above Acts.



**PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES TAKEN UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS WITHIN THE
AREA OF PORT TALBOT BOROUGH, YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1923.**

Quarter ended March, 1923.																Quarter ended June, 1923						Quarter ended Sept., 1923.						Quarter ended Dec., 1923.			
Where taken.		Fresh Milk	Cream	Milk	Cream	Butter	Lard	Marg'ne	Cream	Butter	Lard	Marg'ne	Jam	Sponge Cake	Milk	Sponge Cake	Sponge Cake	Milk	Sponge Cake	Con'sed Milk											
Aberavon		16	1	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	16	2	0	0	2	3											
Port Talbot		0	0	16	2	6	2	2	1	5	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Sandfields		0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Cwmlavon		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0											
Total		16	1	30	2	6	2	2	2	6	2	2	2	1	16	2	1	16	2	3											

SUMMARY.

Milk, 62; Cream, 5; Butter, 12; Lard, 4; Jam, 2; Condensed Milk, 3; Sponge Cake, 3. Total 95.

AND PROSECUTIONS:

Port Talbot Borough Police Court, 31/5/1923, William Mills, Aberavon, Fined 40/- for selling Milk 10% deficient in butter fat.

MILK.

The milk supply of the district is only partly controlled by the Authority. The sale of Foods and Drugs Act is administered by the Glamorgan County Council, so that no supervision over the purity of the milk can be exercised by the Authority.

The largest portion of the milk consumed, is produced outside the Borough and comes from West Wales, and the West of England. A smaller amount is produced and retailed in the area. There is also some produced in the area and retailed outside, in Pyle, Kenfig Hill and Briton Ferry.

The Milk and Dairies Acts, 1922, gave more power to Local Authorities to deal with the milk supply.

Local Authorities are now required to keep two registers, one for producers and one for retailers. They have power to refuse to register, or to remove from the register under certain circumstances.

The Act also provides that milk may not be sold under certain prescribed designations, without a license granted by the Ministry of Health, or with their authority.

The Act prohibits the addition of any colouring matter or water, or reconstituted milk, or skimmed or separated milk to milk intended for sale.

The Act imposes a heavy penalty for selling milk from a cow suffering from Tuberculosis.

Orders also have been issued under Section 3 of the Act, dealing with the special designations of milk. These deal chiefly, with the production of "Certified" "Grade A." (Tuberculin Tested) "Grade A." and "Pasteurised" milk.

New registers in compliance with the requirements of the Act have been compiled, and at the end of the year there were on it 34 Producers, 38 Retailers and 41 Producers and Retailers.

The farms producing milk for sale were inspected during the year, and improvement in the conditions of milk production continued to be shown. Further structural alterations and improvements were asked for, and in most instances carried out.

An endeavour is made to create and to maintain a high standard of cleanliness in the production and handling of milk from the Producer to the Consumer, and in order to attain this, there are three essential requirements, viz., clean persons, clean cows and clean utensils. These standards can only be secured if cowsheds is rightly constructed. The flooring should be such as to admit of easy cleansing, there should be adequate cubic space, lighting and ventilation, there should be a water supply laid on, and facilities provided for the proper cleansing of the cans. The provision of all these does not entail much extra cost, and could be easily borne, considering the flourishing state of the trade.

If care is taken to keep the sheds clean, there should be no difficulty in keeping the cows clean by grooming, which should be done before each milking. The milker should have facilities for washing and drying his hands, and should wear a washable overall.

This standard has not been attained yet in the majority of instances, and cannot be hoped for at once. It is impossible to carry out repairs and alterations all the year round, because it is only in the summer months when the cows are put out to grass, that the cowsheds are available.

Inspections should take place at the time of milking, but it is impossible, owing to the scattered nature of the district to carry them out with the present staff.

Dairies and Milkshops are also regularly inspected, and a fairly good standard of cleanliness provided. In none of the premises are there facilities for steaming the utensils. Cleansing is usually done by boiling water. In several instances, separate dairies have been provided. The provision of a separate dairy is an ideal to be aimed at, and the sale of milk from shops where meats and green vegetables should be prohibited.

For a report of the work done in connection with Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, see Sanitary Summary.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

The only facilities for disinfection and disinfection of clothing, etc. at our disposal are at the Borough Fever Hospital, which is situated at some distance from the town. This makes it inconvenient and expensive. There is a Washington Lyon's Disinfectors, which is used for the disinfection of clothing, etc.

Premises from which cases of infectious diseases are notified are disinfected on removal of the case to Hospital, or on the death or recovery of the patient, if the case is kept at home.

The method of disinfection of premises is by means of a formalin lamp, when the room is charged with formalin vapour. All articles that have come in contact with the patient are left in the room while fumigation is being carried out.

Any fomites that have come in contact with a Tuberculosis case are either destroyed by burning, or taken to the disinfectors to be disinfected.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Considerable nuisance is caused at times by pollution of the air from fumes from the coke ovens at Taibach, and from smoke and small grit from the Steel Works at Port Talbot. The nuisance is accentuated during the spring and summer months, when the prevailing winds blow the smoke and grit towards the land.

The fumes from the coke ovens arise chiefly, when the cells are being charged, and when the red hot coke is being quenched.

Considerable abatement of the nuisance resulted, when the cells were charged with more care. It is found that the volume of smoke and fumes does not amount to a great nuisance, when only one cell is charged at a time, and only one port hole released.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There were 36 offensive trades on the register at the end of the year.

Fish and Chip Frying	32
Marine Stores	3
Gut Scraping	1

This is not a complete record of the above. There are a number unregistered, especially fish and chip fryers. These as discovered, are entered in the register, and are made to comply with the Bye-laws.

In the majority of instances, fish frying is carried on in ordinary dwelling houses, in which alterations have been carried out for the purpose.

The chief breaches of the Bye-law found were the absence of a proper receptacle for the deposit of garbage, and the absence of chimneys over the pans.

SWINE KEEPING AND THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

Considerable attention has been paid to this during the year 1922, when it was found that flagrant contravention of the Bye-laws had been taking place. A large number of pigstyes were removed outside the 60 feet limit and put in proper repair. This was kept up during 1923, with the result that swine keeping is not now carried on in contravention of the Bye-laws.

Nuisances arising from the improper keeping of other animals were also discovered, and in each instance were abated on the service of an Informal Notice.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There were seven Common Lodging Houses in the Borough with accommodation for 206 persons. Included in the above is one Seamen's Lodging House. They were periodically inspected, and were found to be kept clean, and that the Bye-laws were being observed, except in one instance where there were no arrangements for the separation of the sexes. The premises generally also were unsuitable for the purpose of a common lodging house, and steps will be taken to revoke the license.

CINEMAS.

All the cinemas are inspected before being licensed every year, and periodically at other times. It is then observed whether they are kept in a state of cleanliness, that the sanitary arrangements and ventilation are satisfactory. If it is found that they do not come up to expected requirements, they are refused a license until the defects are remedied. In one instance a temporary license has been granted until improvements are carried out.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Workshops were systematically inspected, and at the end of the year there were 153 on the register. 12 new workshops were added to the register, and 8 were removed. Included in the 153 were 31 bakehouses. Infringement of the Factories and Workshops Act were found as a result of inspections, and these were all remedied after the service of Notices.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Pollution of the Afan and Ffrwdwyllt Rivers is still taking place.

The River Afan is polluted all along its course by slop water and effluents from settling tanks, and by indiscriminate disposal of house refuse and garbage along its banks. Improvement will take place when the Cwmavon and Oakwood Sewerage will be connected up with the Glyncoirwg Sewer.

The River Ffrwdwyllt is still being polluted by foul effluents from the sewage farm at Bryn.

The nuisance arising from the pollution of these Rivers is not so much in evidence during the winter months, when there is an abundant flow of water as during the summer months when they run practically dry. It is then that they become a danger to the health of the community.

These conditions can only be ameliorated by turning all slop water and sewage effluents to the sewers, and rigid observance of Acts and Bye-laws with regard to disposal of refuse.

SCAVENGING.

The collection and disposal of house and other refuse is carried on under the supervision of the Surveyor's Department, except in the outlying districts, where it is carried out by contract. The refuse is collected by horse drawn carts and disposed of mainly on two tips, at Aberavon and Port Talbot.

There is a daily collection of refuse in most districts, with a twice or thrice weekly collection in a few. The scavenging service was reported on as unsatisfactory last year. No improvement has taken place, with the exception that the tip has been removed from the fair ground to a place about 200 yards westwards of the end of Sandfields Road.

The present system of horse drawn open carts should be done away with, and covered motor vans substituted. Considerable saving in time and energy could be effected, and the refuse could be disposed of more speedily, and with much less nuisance.

Indiscriminate dumping of refuse is still being carried on, especially along the banks of the rivers and on pieces of waste ground. The back lanes are also littered with refuse in some areas. No improvement can take place until defaulters are severely dealt with, and owners made to supply proper ashbins.

The disposal of night soil is carried out by the Corporation. This is generally disposed of at the refuse tips, and cannot fail to create a nuisance. It was recommended last year, that it should be buried in trenches and covered with earth. Night soil is rendered innocuous without any nuisance in a few months if buried in trenches, and covered with fresh earth. After short intervals, the earth can be used over and over again.

In last year's report, the provision of a refuse destructor was recommended. The most sanitary method of refuse disposal is considered now to be by combustion. Estimates of the costs were worked out and the project was abandoned. Everyone is aware of the fact, that unsatisfactory scavenging arrangements reflect on the health of the community, especially

during hot and dry weather. Dumps of organic refuse provide breeding places for flies, and flies not only are a nuisance and inconvenience by their presence, but also are considered disseminators of diseases, especially diseases of the intestinal type. It has been found that the incidence of Infantile Diarrhoea is least in the towns with the most perfect scavenging arrangements.

It is thus seen, that it lies in the power of the Corporation, with very little extra expense or perhaps with economy, to do away with the existing nuisance, and in future to prevent many deaths from Infantile Diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The condition of the sewerage and drainage is practically the same as was reported on last year, with the exception that the drainage and sewerage of Cwmavon was completed during the year. It is hoped that during 1924, most of the houses will be provided with a water carriage system, and connected up with the sewers.

The whole system will be connected up with the Glyn-corrwg sewer at two points through gauge chambers, near Tymaen Street and Cross Row.

It is only in a few instances, that there are houses that cannot be connected up with the sewers in Cwmavon now. In the case of a few, the levels are too low and in these proper privy accommodation is provided.

In Oakwood the sewage runs through two settling tanks, with effluents running to the river, causing considerable nuisance during dry weather, when there is insufficient dilution. It has now been proposed to connect up the whole of the sewerage of Oakwood to the Glyn-corrwg sewer, if suitable arrangements can be made with the Glyn-corrwg Council. The sewerage of Ynysygwas should in the same way be connected up with the Glyn-corrwg sewer at Cwmavon. At present it flows through coke filters to the River Afan.

The condition of the sewerage at Bryn is the same as when I reported last year. The sewage farm is still in a very unsatisfactory state. One of the tanks is out of action, and the grips and channels are defective, so that the effluents "ponds" on the land and flows practically unchanged to the River Ffrwdwyllt. It was recommended last year, that a new sewer should be laid from the existing sewer at Celluloid Works to receive the sewage of Bryn, now being unsatisfactorily disposed of on the sewage farm. The sewerage of the lower parts of Aberavon continues to cause a great deal of trouble. This arises chiefly, from the defective condition of the sewers. They are broken in many instances, and not properly jointed. They are also not laid with proper levels. The only remedy, is relaying portions of the sewers as they cause trouble. Instructions have been given by the Council to relay the sewers in Angel Street and Glenavon Street, but so far the work has not been done.

The sewerage of Baglan and Briton Ferry will shortly be dealt with. New sewers will be laid to take in the sewage of houses built along the Baglan Road, and the added area of Baglan Lower.

The conditions of the sewerage in other parts of the Borough are the same as when I reported last year. Pail closets are used and slop water is carried into cesspools. In all instances where systems of drainage are laid or relaid, the Inspectors carry out smoke tests, and these must be satisfactory before the drainage is allowed to pass.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the area continues to be a source of anxiety during the dry weather. Very little extension of the service has taken place for the matter of twenty years or more, while the Borough has been growing at a rapid rate at the same time.

Water is derived from two main sources—the Ynys-y-gwas Supply, supplying Aberavon, and the Cwmwernderi Supply, supplying Port Talbot chiefly. There are also several smaller supplies such as—two separate supplies for Bryn, a small supply for Ynys-y-gwas, a supply for Oakwood, etc.

A large portion of the water supply of the Borough is consumed by the various works, and this greatly accentuates the shortage trouble when the reservoirs are running low.

The shortage is chiefly felt in the Aberavon area, as it is the Ynys-y-gwas Reservoir that is affected by dry weather the soonest.

The Margam Reservoir at Cwmwernderi and Cwm-gwineu are over-flowing for the greater part of the year, and if storage for this water could only be provided it would go far to remedy the conditions of affairs. There has been a suggestion to lay mains from the Cwmwernderi Reservoir to the Ynys-y-gwas Reservoir and connect the two, so that this surplus water could be stored. An alternative and an easier way would be to connect the two services—the old Aberavon one and the old Margam one at several points, so that the lower parts of Aberavon could be supplied from the Cwmwernderi Supply.

Expert Engineers are now reluctant to advise authorities to extend their water services over the coal measures, on account of the dangers of subsidences and fissures tapping the reservoirs. This would result not only in a loss of the source of supply, but also would entail a great expenditure in pumping from colliery shafts.

The only alternative for the Authority, if they propose to extend their services, is to go outside the northern outcrop. This would be a large undertaking for a single Authority, and the only solution of the difficulty would be for several areas to amalgamate, and the formation of a Water Board. The Neath Rural District have been approached with regard to the formation of a Joint Board to take over Ystradfellte Supply, but so far with no result. The question of the water resources of the whole country is now being considered by the Ministry of Health, and a general survey is being made of the same.

The Neath Rural District are at present supplying parts of Cwmavon, and are under contract to supply further, a maximum of 40 million gallons, and a minimum of 20 million gallons on 180 consecutive days, from April 1st in any year.

The water shortage was felt during the summer, especially in Aberavon, where the water had to be cut off for parts of the day. This must cause great inconvenience in an industrial district, where the men are working the three shifts round the clock.

The two reserve supplies had to be utilised during the summer, viz., the Corporation Well and the Celluloid Well. The Corporation Well was fully reported on last year, and it was considered that it was hardly fit for domestic use. Complaints of the water being hard and unsuitable were made continually. The result of analysis were also unsatisfactory.

The water is practically all surface collected and stored in reservoirs. There are no means of filtration, and the storage capacity of the reservoirs is not a very large one, so that there is not a great amount of purification taking place by storage.

19 separate water supplies were examined, and 18 chemical and 28 bacteriological samples were taken. These were examined by the Joint Laboratory, Cardiff. The results of the examination were on the whole satisfactory, but a few of the smaller supplies gave trouble. In each instance, where the results were unfavourable, the supply was discontinued, or the condition of affairs were remedied to give satisfactory results.

Unsatisfactory results were got from :—

The Corporation Well.

Cwm-mawr Supply.

Well supplying Bwlch and Tyla'r Fedwen Farm.

Spring near Bwlch Farm.

Supply for Pentitla Bungalow.

Supply for Ffynnon Iago Farm.

Supply for Blaen Baglan Farm.

Supply for Fernfield, Baglan.

Supply for Woodside, Baglan.

The Baglan and Briton Ferry areas have now been supplied with water by the laying of new mains on the Briton Ferry end. A service has been extended along the Baglan Road, as far as Baglan Church,

The Oakwood supply continues to cause trouble during dry weather. The springs which feed the supply are insufficient to keep the supply going. It has now been proposed to connect up Oakwood with the Ystradyfellt Supply if arrangements can be made.

The Cwm-Mawr Supply has been discontinued on account of pollution by the Bwlch Colliery. It is also too near a large centre of population, and the chances of pollution by pedestrians and animals are too great to warrant its continuance as a source of supply.

Several of the small supplies should be better protected. These are spring or surface collected water, stored in small service tanks. On account of their proximity to human habitations in most instances, they are liable to all chances of pollution. Unclimbable fences should be put round them.

A water inspector has been appointed to police the catchment areas.

In order to prevent any waste of water, a more rigid inspection of water taps and of the mains for leakages should be carried out.

HOUSING.

The housing conditions in the district continue to be a serious question. Not very much progress has been made in building operations. A scheme of twenty-eight houses was commenced along the Margam Road during the year, and thirteen of these were occupied in the year. These were subsidised and built by contract.

Thirty-five houses were built by private enterprise in various parts of the Borough.

Thirteen temporary structures of the bungalow type were also built in various localities on spare pieces of ground. These are licensed for three years as a rule. They are a means of tiding over the temporary difficulty of over-crowding, but some of them cannot fail to get into a condition of dis-repair and become uninhabitable in a very short time.

The subsidised houses are built of bricks, and are provided with all modern conveniences.

The sites of the lowest ones nearest the railway are damp, and considerable inconvenience has been caused, because the roads have not been made up and the gardens filled up and fenced in.

More progress will be made during 1924, as sanction for houses have been given, and these are being built at a rapid rate.

The conditions of over-crowding have only been relieved to a very small extent so far. Much over-crowding exists still in the area. It will be accentuated greatly as the industries in the area develop.

There is serious overcrowding in Cwmavon, where the houses are small, and the houses are old.

Considerable amount of repairs was carried out during the year, and a large number of houses were made more habitable.

Closing Orders were made in twenty-seven cases, but could not be closed by reason of lack of alternative accommodation for the occupiers.

It is thus seen, that the number of houses built is not sufficient to meet the demands of the increase in population with out relieving any of the over-crowding. The number of houses required to relieve the over-crowding and to meet the demand of the increase in population is a large one—well over a thousand.

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts for structural dilapidations were instituted against the following persons during the year :—

Mr. Richard Morgan, in respect of 49, Gower Street, Cwmavon.

Mrs. M. Lewis, in respect of 14, Miners Row, Cwmavon

Mrs. M. Lloyd, in respect of 21, Miners Row, Cwmavon, and 75, Pantdu, Aberavon.

In each case an order was granted with costs.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Total	48
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923 :—	
(i) By the Local Authority	13
(ii) By other bodies or persons	—

1 —Unfit Dwelling Houses.

(1) Inspection. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	2518
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	154
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	31
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	892

2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	526
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	37
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(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) By Owners	25
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	20

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	315
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) By Owners	112
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	2

C.—Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.....	7
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	7
	in addition to 20 as above.
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

TABLE I.

Causes of Death in Port Talbot, 1923.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
All Causes	216	206
1.—Enteric Fever	0	0
2.—Small Pox	0	0
3.—Measles	0	0
4.—Scarlet Fever	0	0
5.—Whooping Cough	1	0
6.—Diphtheria	1	3
7.—Influenza	1	2
8.—Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0
9.—Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0
10.—Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	21	18
11.—Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	2
12.—Cancer, Malignant Disease	14	27
13.—Rheumatic Fever	0	0
14.—Diabetes	1	3
15.—Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c.	6	16
16.—Heart Disease	22	33
17.—Arterio Sclerosis	7	6
18.—Bronchitis	21	10
19.—Pneumonia (All Forms)	19	11
20.—Other Respiratory Diseases	7	2
21.—Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	2
22.—Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	4	2
23.—Appendicitis and Typhilitis	0	0
24.—Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0
25.—Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6	8
26.—Puerperal Sepsis	0	1
27.—Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	0	5
28.—Congenital Debility and Malformation, Pre- mature Birth	21	9
29.—Suicide	3	0
30.—Other Deaths from Violence	21	5
31.—Other Defined Diseases	33	41
32.—Causes, ill-defined or unknown	0	0
Special Causes (included above)—		
Poliomyelitis	0	0
Polioencephalitis	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—		
Total	39	27
Illegitimate	2	0
Total Births	506	498
Legitimate	495	479
Illegitimate	9	19
Population	42,310	

TABLE II.

Deaths Registered during the calendar year 1923,
classified by Age and Cause.

Causes of Death	Nett deaths at the sub-joined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.								
	under 1 year	1 & under 2	2 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 45	45 & under 65	65 & upwards	Total at All Ages
Whooping Cough ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
Influenza	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	0	0	1	1	12	16	9	0	39
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	5
Cancer	0	0	0	0	0	9	18	14	41
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	13	22
Heart Diseases	0	0	0	3	1	6	19	26	55
Arterio Sclerosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	11	13
Bronchitis	8	2	1	0	0	2	5	13	31
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	6	1	1	1	3	6	7	30
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	4	9
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	5
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	0	0	0	1	0	3	4	6	14
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy & Parturition	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	5
Congenital Debility & Malformation, Premature Birth	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Suicide	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Other Deaths from Violence	0	1	3	7	6	4	2	3	26
Other Defined Diseases	16	1	2	6	4	13	15	17	74
Totals	66	14	13	21	27	65	95	121	422

TABLE III.
INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Classified according to age and cause of death.

Causes of death	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total under 1 year.
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Convulsions	1	1	1	1	4	0	2	1	0	7
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	2	9
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	5
Diarrhoea	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Enteritis	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	4
Atelectasis	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Congenital Malfor'tion	4	1	0	0	5	4	1	0	0	10
Premature Births	13	1	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	14
Atrophy Debility										
Marasmus	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Other Causes	0	2	0	0	2	2	2	0	1	7
Totals	22	5	1	1	29	15	8	7	7	66

TABLE IV.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1923.

(Provisional figures The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a Population estimated to the middle of 1923, while those for the towns have been calculated on Populations estimated to the middle of 1922. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	Birth rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.				
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Deaths in Public Insti- tutions	Causes of Death Certified by Register'd Medical Practit- ioners.	Inquest Cases	Uncerti- fied Causes of Death
England and Wales	19·7	11·6	0·01	0·00	0·14	0·03	0·10	0·07	0·22	0·44	7·7	69	...	92·0	6·9	1·1
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, includ- ing London	20·4	11·6	0·01	0·00	0·15	0·03	0·12	0·09	0·22	0·40	9·9	72	...	92·2	7·2	0·9
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000)	19·8	10·6	0·01	0·00	0·19	0·02	0·10	0·06	0·21	0·38	6·4	69	...	92·6	6·1	1·3
London	20·2	11·2	0·01	0·00	0·08	0·02	0·09	0·13	0·17	0·45	10·2	60	...	90·8	9·1	0·1
Borough of Port Talbot...	23·7	9·9	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·2	0·09	0·07	0·68	0·14	65	...	89·1	10·9	0·00

TABLE V.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

		Aberavon North Ward		Aberavon South Ward		Cwmavon Ward		Margam West Ward		Margam Central Ward		Margam North Ward		Total.
Scarlet Fever	...	13	...	9	...	4	...	15	...	5	...	7	...	53
Diphtheria	...	5	...	15	...	0	...	18	...	20	...	3	...	61
Pneumonia	...	5	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	8
Erysipelas	.....	1	...	2	...	1	...	0	...	2	...	1	...	7
Ophthalmia	...		...		...		...		...		...		...
Neonatorum...		0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	0	...	1	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2
Totals	.....	33	...	27	...	11	...	24	...	30	...	7	...	132

TABLE VI.

Table showing number of cases of Infectious Disease notified, and the number removed to Hospital for isolation since the opening of the Institution.

Year	No. of Cases notified				Total cases notified	No. of Cases removed				Total cases removed	Percentage of cases removed	Deaths
	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typh. Fever	Small Pox		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typh. Fever	Small Pox			
1897	37	16	6	0	59	29	11	6	0	46	77.9	1
1898	34	33	1	0	68	29	21	1	0	51	75.	2
1899	10	37	2	0	49	6	18	1	0	25	50.	1
1900	37	26	0	0	63	22	12	0	0	34	54.	0
1901	66	32	2	0	100	40	8	0	0	48	48.	0
1902	117	117	1	0	235	72	61	0	0	133	56.6	1
1903	128	44	5	0	177	73	7	0	0	80	45.	0
1904	69	11	11	1	122	40	11	0	1	52	42.6	0
1905	26	24	0	0	50	11	13	0	0	24	48.	0
1906	32	29	1	0	62	19	9	0	0	28	45.	0
1907	16	11	10	0	37	7	8	9	0	24	65.	0
1908	20	23	9	0	52	12	10	2	0	24	46.	1
1909	40	26	5	0	71	19	13	2	0	34	48.	2
1910	30	19	1	0	50	4	8	0	0	12	24.	0
1911	58	16	4	0	78	36	11	3	0	50	64.	0
1912	19	63	1	0	83	9	48	1	0	58	73.4	1
1913	15	56	0	0	71	12	37	0	0	49	69.	6
1914	78	23	0	0	101	62	17	0	0	79	78.25	1
1915	55	11	1	0	67	37	10	0	0	47	70.1	0
1916	44	23	0	0	67	34	19	0	0	53	79.1	1
1917	18	13	0	0	31	16	10	0	0	26	83.2	0
1918	16	27	0	0	43	11	21	0	0	32	74.4	0
1919	40	15	2	0	57	32	13	0	0	45	80.	0
1920	52	48	1	0	101	40	33	1	0	74	73.2	0
1921	150	122	0	0	272	123	93	0	0	216	79.4	7
1922	114	64	1	0	179	82	50	1	0	133	73.2	5
1923	53	61	0	0	114	41	47	0	0	88	77.19	3
Total	1374	1020	64	1	2459	918	619	27	1	1565	—	32
Add cases treated in Hospital from outside the Margam District, prior to Amalgamation										172	—	6
Grand Totals in Hospital										1737	—	38

The figures up to and including 1921 relate to the Old Margam District, the figures for 1922 and afterwards relate to the Borough of Port Talbot.



BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT.



ANNUAL
REPORT

of the

Sanitary Inspector

FOR YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31st, 1923.

Borough of Port Talbot.



The Report of WILLIAM F. BISHOP, Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Factory and Workshops Acts, and Housing, Town Planning, etc. Acts.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF PORT TALBOT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year ended December 31st, 1923, of the sanitary condition of your Borough, with the action taken and results obtained in the performance of my duties as Senior Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Housing Acts, and as Inspector under the Factory and Workshops Acts.

INSPECTIONS.

During the year the number of inspections made was 11,313, and these may be classified as follows :—

House to House Inspections	368
Housing, Town Planning Inspections	803
Other House Inspections	1996
(a) Structural Defects	1337
(b) Foul Conditions	677
(c) Overcrowding	8
(d) Unfit for Habitation	24
Schools	132
Pigstyes and Swine-keeping	305
Stables, Refuse and Manure	394
Ashpits, Privies and Cesspools	229
Other Nuisances	62

INSPECTIONS.—Continued.

Slaughterhouses	134
Meat and other Foods	426
Cowsheds and Dairies	501
Water Supplies	556
Drains, Yards and w.c.'s	2655
Infectious Diseases	284
Workshops and Bakehouses	245
Common Lodging Houses	28
Improper keeping of Animals	100
Offensive Trades	49
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DWELLING HOUSES AND SCHOOLS.

The new houses being erected in the district are fairly well built, and in all cases where sewers are available proper water closet accommodation and drainage is provided. In all instances where sewers are not available, the drainage is connected to properly constructed cesspools, which prove satisfactory.

Water supplies are laid on in every case both for domestic and flushing purposes.

The lack of suitable house accommodation is still keenly felt, and great difficulty is still experienced in dealing with many of the old and insanitary dwellings which cannot be made fit for human habitation, except by re-construction and which should, therefore, be closed as unfit for human habitation.

While building operations continue at a fair pace, the number of cases of over-crowding that exist do not appear to diminish to any extent, and nuisances found existing from this cause have, except in a few remote cases, to be passed over without any action being taken for their abatement, as even though a notice may be served for the abatement of such nuisances, other accommodation suitable to meet the needs of the class of person involved is practically impossible to obtain.

The condition of a number of the older houses in the Borough is unsatisfactory, by reason of their old and damp state, due in many cases to the old age of the property and the lack of shoots and downpipes, and general structural defects. A number of these houses have been dealt with during the year and have been placed in a fairly reasonable state, but by reason of the excessive amount of work which your Inspectors now have to perform, it is not possible to deal with these houses as rapidly as the necessity demands.

Some progress has been made with regard to the drainage and water supply at Cwmavon, which will place these houses in a much better state than hitherto, and I anticipate that great strides will be made in this direction during the ensuing year.

A number of temporary structures are still being erected in the Borough, a few of which have already come under my notice in respect of structural and other defects.

These structures are in nearly all cases of the wooden bungalow type, and are placed in most exposed positions. What the condition of these structures will be in a matter of a few years is difficult to foretell, but I am of opinion that with the facilities offered to persons desirous of erecting house accommodation under the Housing Acts and Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, the Corporation should seriously consider whether any further buildings of this type should be allowed to be erected, as I am afraid that a few years hence these persons who have expended their savings upon such structures will in a good many instances have very little to show in return for their outlay, apart from the fact of the risk of their becoming nothing less than insanitary dwellings.

During the year there were erected in the Borough 31 new houses.

Schools.

During the year 132 inspections of the 14 Elementary Schools, the Port Talbot County Schools and the Port Talbot

Secondary Schools were made, with the result that 10 nuisances were discovered. 10 Informal Notices have been given, and the following works have been executed :—

- 9 drains cleared.
- 2 waste pipes cleared.
- 6 new flushing tanks fixed.
- 1 ashbin provided.
- 11 W.C.'s limewashed.
- 1 water service repaired.
- 3 drains repaired.
- 13 W.C.'s repaired.
- 1 roof repaired.
- 6 flushing tanks repaired.

Since my last Report the Corporation water mains have been extended so as to allow of a proper water supply being laid on to the Baglan Schools.

The nuisances found existing in dwelling houses and schools were principally due to the following causes :—

- (a) Structural Defects.
- (b) Foul Conditions.
- (c) Over-crowding.
- (d) Unfit for Human Habitation.

Structural Defects.

The number of nuisances found existing under this heading was 205, for the abatement of which 203 Informal and 110 Statutory Notices were given. The following works were carried out :—

39 houses provided with shoots and downpipes, 9, new windows fixed, 2, new roofs fixed, 53 roofs repaired, 26 shoots and downpipes repaired, 48 windows repaired, 14 chimneys repaired, 3 new grates fixed, 23 grates repaired, 9 new doors fixed, 32 new floors laid, 8 partitions repaired, 27 waste pipes repaired, 7 stairs repaired, 6 boundary walls re-built, 1 house provided with concrete under floors, 1 new bath fixed, 3 new scullery sinks fixed, 20 doors repaired, 35 floors repaired, 50 houses with plastering repaired, 7 gable ends cemented, 6 new ovens fixed, 15 walls made damp proof, 2 new gates fixed, 2 ventilators under floors made good, 2 new washing coppers fixed.

Foul Conditions.

The number of nuisances found existing under this head was 204, for the abatement of which 203 Informal and 24 Statutory Notices were served. The following are some of the works done to comply with the Notices :—

- 175 Systems of blocked drains cleared.
- 4 Yards cleansed.
- 15 Dirty Houses cleansed.
- 12 Offensive Ditches cleaned out.

Overcrowding.

A number of inspections under this heading were made during the year, but owing to the fact that it is impossible to deal with them at present they are very seldom recorded, except in those instances where there is any possibility of an improvement being effected. The recorded number of inspections made was 8. Those nuisances were dealt with and were abated.

Unfit for Human Habitation.

The number of inspections of houses found to be unfit for human habitation was 24. 23 Informal and 20 Statutory Notices were given, and in 11 instances the premises have been placed in a reasonable state of repair. In a number of other cases the works are in progress.

Summary Proceedings.

Proceedings were instituted before the Magistrates upon 4 occasions during the year with the following results :—

<i>Situation of Premises</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Nature of Defects</i>	<i>Results</i>
49, Gower Street, Rd. Morgan Cwmavon		Structural Dilapidations	Order granted with costs
14, Miners Row, Mrs. M. Lewis Cwmavon		Structural Dilapidations	Order granted with costs
21, Miners Row, Mrs. M. Lloyd Cwmavon		Structural Dilapidations	Order granted with costs
75, Pantdu, Aberavon	Mrs. M. Lloyd	Structural Dilapidations	Order granted with costs

GENERAL NUISANCES.

The nuisances discovered under this heading may be classed as follows :—

- (a) Ashpits, Privies and Cesspools.
- (b) Stables, Refuse and Manure.
- (c) Pigstyes and Swine-keeping.
- (d) Animals improperly kept.
- (e) Other Nuisances.

(A) Ashpits, Privies and Cesspools.

During the year 229 inspections were made of premises which come under this heading. During the course of these inspections, 25 nuisances were discovered, for the abatement of which 25 Informal and 7 Statutory Notices were given. The following are some of the works carried out with a view to their abatement :—

- 13 New Pails provided.
- 12 Cesspools cleaned out.
- 13 Cesspools filled up.

During the ensuing year a large number of privies and cesspools will undoubtedly be removed by the provision of means of drainage to the new sewers at Cwmavon.

(B) Stables, Refuse and Manure.

The number of inspections made during the year in connection with this matter was 394. 37 nuisances were discovered, for the abatement of which 37 Informal and 1 Statutory Notices were served. The following works have been carried out in connection with their abatement :—

- 31 Accumulations removed.
- 1 Receptacle provided.
- 3 Stables removed from back yard.
- 1 Stable limewashed.

(c) Pigstyes and Swine-keeping.

305 inspections were made in connection with pigstyes and swine-keeping, during the course of which 27 nuisances were discovered. For their abatement 27 Informal and 12 Statutory Notices were served in connection with which the following works have been executed :—

29 Pigstyes removed.

1 Offensive Accumulation of Hog-wash removed.

2 Pigstyes paved and drained.

(D) Animals Improperly Kept.

The number of inspections made under this heading was 100, and 31 nuisances were discovered.

Informal Notice was given in 31 instances and 3 Statutory Notices were served, and for compliance with the same 25 nuisances have been abated.

(E) Other Nuisances.

Inspections made of nuisances which cannot be classed under any other specific head numbered 62, in the course of which 7 nuisances were discovered and dealt with. 7 Informal and 1 Statutory Notices were served and the following works carried out :—

1 Nuisance from Rats abated.

1 Nuisance from obstruction over yard space removed.

2 Decomposing Carcases buried.

1 Offensive Exhaust Pipe made good.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

134 inspections were made in connection with the six licensed slaughter-houses and the Public Abbatoir. One nuisance only was discovered, due to the defective condition of the floor, and upon the service of an Informal Notice the floor was relaid.

The whole of these premises are kept in a fairly clean state, and having regard to their being so small, and the fact that they are in most cases surrounded with dwellings, they are fairly well kept.

Scattered as they are miles apart in the district, no satisfactory control can be exercised over the meat killed and dressed in them, and prosecutions taking place during the past year with regard to unsound meat only proves the absolute and urgent necessity for the erection of a new up-to-date Public Abbatoir.

The new Regulations dealing with the question of the slaughter of animals framed by the Ministry, and which will probably come into force very shortly, will, to a certain extent give the Inspector an additional small measure of control, in-as-much as they provide for the giving of Notices before any slaughtering takes place, but even this does not give anything like the same chance of control which can be exercised in a Public Abbatoir.

Before any satisfactory control of the meat killed can, therefore, be maintained, it is expedient that this question which is now under consideration by the Corporation should be given a position of first importance, and an Abbatoir sufficiently large for the needs of our growing district should be erected in the near future.

Three applications were received during the year for licenses to erect private slaughter-houses, but were refused in each case.

SLAUGHTERING ON UNLICENSED PREMISES.

Two persons were discovered slaughtering upon un-licensed premises during the year. In one case proceedings were instituted against the offender, who was ordered to pay the costs of the prosecution, and in the second case no action was taken.

CHANGE OF OCCUPATION OF SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.

The license held by Evan Evans in respect of a slaughter-house at the rear of 62, High Street, Taibach, was transferred to Evie Evans of 57, High Street, Taibach.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Considerable activity in connection with this matter has been taken during the year, and 426 inspections of meat and food either in course of preparation for, or deposited for sale were made.

The following articles of meat and food were seized and destroyed as being unfit for human food :—

1 ton 12 cwts. 1 qr. and 17 lbs. of beef, 78 lbs. of ox tails, 16 lbs. of ox kidneys, 15 lbs. of ox liver, 13 ducks (48 lbs.), 27 rabbits, 1 carcase of pork, 20 tins of pine apple chunks, 1 bottle of preserved fruit, 4 tins of fish, 7 tins of tomatoes, 4 tins of milk, 1 tin of preserved meat.

PROSECUTIONS.

Prosecutions were instituted for the exposure and possession of unsound food as follows :—

<i>Name and Address.</i>	<i>Nature of Article.</i>	<i>Penalties.</i>
John Mort, Aberavon Market.	67 lbs. of Beef (unsound).	£5 & Costs.
John Mort, Aberavon Market.	17 lbs. of Beef (unsound).	£5 & Costs.
John Mort, Aberavon Market.	11 lbs. of Beef (unsound).	£5 & Costs.
John Mort, Aberavon Market.	Tubercular Bovine Liver.	£2 & Costs.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The number of inspections of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops made during the year was 501, during the course of which 66 infringements of the Regulations were discovered.

For their abatement 64 Informal and 9 Statutory Notices were given, and the following works have been executed :—

15 Dairies provided, 2 Dairy walls made good, 24 Cowsheds and Dairies limewashed, 12 Cowsheds drained, 10 Cowsheds properly ventilated, 3 Water supplies laid on, 4 Lofts

removed from over cows in sheds, 2 Dirty Milking infringements abated, 1 Unsatisfactory Dairy discontinued, and Dairyman removed from Register, 1 Dairy roof repaired, 11 Cowsheds provided with new stalls and mangers, 11 Cowshed floors reconstructed, 10 Cowsheds properly lighted, 11 Accumulations of manure removed, 1 Cowshed roof repaired, 2 Unregistered Dairymen registered, 2 Infringements from keeping swine in cowshed abated, 1 Infringement from stable communicating with dairy abated.

Considerable improvement was made during the year in some of the cowsheds by the provision of new floors, stalls, mangers and drainage, and in one instance the whole of the cowshed yard was concreted.

The following farms were dealt with during the year, and the cowsheds in connection with the same having been practically reconstructed, with the result that these sheds will now meet the requirements of the new Regulations which have just been framed by the Corporation :—

Moors Farm, Aberavon; Tyn-twyr Farm, Baglan; Bryn-Derw Farm, Graig-y-Tewgoed; Llamihangel Farm, Margam; Heolfadwg Farm, Margam; Tycanol Farm, Baglan; Tylar-fedwen Farm, Cwmavon; Preswylfa Farm, Graig-y-Tewgoed; Bryndu Farm, Margam.

A new cowshed was erected at Hafod Isaf Farm, Margam, to replace the existing dilapidated structure.

A further batch of notices have been served with respect to a number of cowsheds in the district, and work in connection with these will commence as soon as the cattle are able to be turned out of the sheds.

Some attention has been paid during the year to the conditions of sheds, cows and persons at the actual time of milking, but owing to the very scattered nature of the district and the long distance between some of these farms, great difficulty is experienced in following up inspections of this kind.

A new register in accordance with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922 has been completed, and at the end of the year there were 34 Producers, 38 Retailers and 41 Producers and Retailers upon the register.

Action has been taken in every case where Retailers were without proper dairy accommodation, and as a result of Notices served, 15 dairies were provided.

In one case the question of pasteurization of milk has been considered, and the necessary building and plant is at present being erected, and a license for the sale of pasteurized milk in accordance with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922 will shortly be applied for.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supplied by the Corporation is derived from twelve separate services, all within the Borough of Port Talbot, and is augmented at Cwmavon and Aberavon by a supply from the Ystradfellte Works of the Neath Rural District Council.

The bulk of the water is supplied from the Cwm-Wernderi, Cwm-gweniu, Ynys-y-gwas and Lletty-poed Reservoirs augmented by the Ystradfellte Supply as above.

The greater portion of the water is surface collected, conveyed by mountain streams to the Reservoirs, from whence it is delivered to the various parts of the Borough by means of cast iron water mains.

Since my last Report, the Corporation have appointed a man to patrol these streams and catchment areas, with a view to minimising the possibility of animal and vegetable contamination.

The piping of the stream at Cwm-gweniu as recommended in my last Report, although adopted by the Corporation, has not been carried out, and I would suggest that this matter should be put in hand before the summer months, in order to prevent the pollution by picnic parties and others who frequent this spot during these months.

The method of supplying by public stand-pipes is gradually disappearing, and as soon as new mains are laid, in those cases where no mains are available, or to replace those which are too small, or from other causes are not sufficient to meet the demand; Notices are given to lay on a water supply, and the public stand-pipes are disposed of.

Some improvement has been made with regard to the water supply for the Baglan area, by the laying of a new main in this locality. Notices were given to lay on a water supply and this work has been carried out in a number of cases.

Attention was called in my last Report to the necessity for the proper fencing of the various service tanks and streams for the protection of the water against pollution, but up to the present the recommendation adopted by the Council has not been carried out.

Some difficulty is being experienced with regard to the Oakwood Supply which is becoming insufficient to meet the demand made upon it, and provision will shortly have to be made with a view to increasing this supply.

Since the last Report the Cwm-Mawr Supply at Cwmavon has been dispensed with, the houses deriving their supply from this service, having been connected to new mains from the Cwm-Clais Supply.

Additions to the mains and the relaying of existing mains will undoubtedly be necessary at Cwmavon, as the existing supplies will, I am afraid, be inadequate to meet the extra demand necessary by the provision of water closet accommodation and drainage in that area.

During the year 18 Chemical and 28 Bacteriological samples of water were submitted for analysis from the various Corporation water supplies.

The number of inspections made during the year was 556, during the course of which 97 defects were found existing. For their abatement 96 Informal and 61 Statutory Notices were served, and the following works were carried out :—

17 Water supplies laid on, 21 Water services relaid, 80 Flushing tanks repaired, 37 Water services repaired, 38 New flushing tanks fixed, 3 Automatic tanks fixed.

SCAVENGING COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The deposit, collection, removal and disposal of house refuse remains in the same unsatisfactory state, as in my previous Report.

All kinds of receptacles for deposit are still resorted to. Open carts still being used for the purpose of collection and removal by the Corporation, and the refuse is ultimately tipped upon open refuse tips, and often in places not recognised as such.

Arising out of my last Annual Report, a special Report was prepared dealing with the question of salvage of house refuse, but no action has yet been taken with regard to the matters.

With the rapid increase in the number of houses being erected in the Borough, and the development continually taking place, the Corporation should consider the advisability of providing better means for the control of this matter than at present existing in the Borough, and which is long overdue.

HOUSE DRAINS, YARDS AND W.C.'s.

The number of inspections of house, drains, yards and w.c.'s made during the year was 2,655, during the course of which 232 nuisances were discovered. 226 Informal and 113 Statutory Notices were served for their abatement, and in order to comply with the requisitions contained in the same the following are some of the works carried out :—

41 systems of drains relaid, 11 w.c.'s reconstructed, 3 systems of drainage provided, 6 soil and vent pipes repaired, 10 yards repaired, 80 flushing tanks repaired, 3 automatic tanks fixed, 51 systems repaired, 86 w.c.'s repaired, 16 systems of drains ventilated, 20 yards re-paved, 5 new inspection chambers built, 38 flushing tanks fixed, 2 pail closets converted into w.c.'s.

SECTION 41 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

Action was taken under the provision of this Section in respect of a combined drain at 30, and 32, Pantdu, Aberavon, the work being carried out by the Corporation employees, and the cost recovered from the Owners.

SEWERAGE.

The greater portion of the district is drained by means of sewers to four outfalls, three of which discharge into the River Afan in tidal water, the remaining outfall discharging direct into the sea at a point about 300 yards below high water mark on the Margam sands.

With the exception of the Sandfields area, these sewers are in a good state, and are fairly well flushed.

At the lower end of the Aberavon area, the sewers are not all that may be desired, being in some cases without proper joints, the gradients being very small, and they become very much overcharged during high tides and during heavy storms which causes leakage into the surrounding ground. The means of flushing is not satisfactory causing stoppages to take place continually, and in many cases causing blocked systems of house drainage.

The sewers at Angel and Glenafon Streets referred to in my last Report are still in the same defective state, and nothing has yet been done to make good the defects existing in them.

The question of sewers for the Baglan area is now receiving the attention of the Corporation, which will when constructed provide a very necessary public service in that locality.

Practically the whole of the sewerage scheme for the Cwmavon district has now been completed, and a number of notices have already been served to provide proper means of drainage and water supply in respect of a number of the houses in that locality. In a number of instances the works have already been carried out, and I anticipate that a great number of the houses now provided with sanitary accommodation and drainage which is of the most primitive description and in many cases beyond comparison, will during the present year be provided with a proper water carriage system of drainage and water closet accommodation, as well as a separate water supply laid on to the premises.

The whole of the sewerage from this area will discharge by way of the Glyn-corrwg sewer to the Margam outfall in the sea.

Frequent inspections have been made, and a number of samples of sewage effluent have been taken from the settling tanks at Bryn by the County Sanitary Inspector during the year.

The result of these samples is very unsatisfactory, the sewage passing into the River Ffrwdwyllt practically in its crude state.

I called attention in my last Report to the necessity for providing better means for the disposal of the sewage in this locality than at present exists, and can only repeat the suggestion therein made that the sewer at Celluloid should be extended up the Valley, so as to take the sewage of Bryn into the main Margam outfall.

A report has been submitted to the Corporation dealing with the question of sewage disposal at Oakwood, containing recommendations for the connection of this area into the Glyn-corrwg Sewer, and is now receiving the attention necessary for the provision of a satisfactory scheme.

In the case of the smaller villages and hamlets, the means employed by provision of settling tanks are found fairly satisfactory.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There were 36 offensive trades registered in the district at the end of the year, and were as follows :—

Fish and Chip Frying	32
Marine Stores	3
Gut Scraping	1

There are still a number of these premises in the district which remain to be registered in accordance with the provisions of the Bye-laws made in respect of the same, and an attempt is being made to compile a complete register in the near future.

49 inspections were made during the year, during the course of which 10 nuisances were discovered, for the abatement of which 10 Informal and 2 Statutory Notices were served.

The following works were carried out to comply with the same :—

7 receptacles for deposit of garbage provided, 1 floor cleansed, 2 proper chimneys provided over pans, 1 removed from register.

A large number of these trades are carried on in the front living room of ordinary dwelling houses, and are often not all that may be desired, especially having regard to the fact that food is involved, and means for the lifting up of the standard of these premises as well as for the care and proper cleansing of the food stuffs involved, are now being considered.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The seven common lodging houses in the Borough have been periodically inspected during the year.

These lodging houses provide accommodation for 206 persons, and are fairly well kept, no nuisance being discovered during the year.

The occupation of the lodging houses at 40, Cwmavon Road, Aberavon, and of 29, and 31, Cwmavon Road, Aberavon, have been changed during the year.

CINEMAS AND AMUSEMENT HOUSES.

A number of inspections of places of entertainment has been made during the year, both in conjunction with the Cinema Committee and otherwise. A number of nuisances were discovered, and Notices given for their abatement, and in some instances have been complied with.

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACT.

Two applications were received from the Occupiers of houses for certificate under the provisions of the above Act. In one case a certificate was granted, while in the remaining instance the structural defects in respect of which the certificate was applied for were carried out upon service of Informal Notice.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified to me during the past year was 53. The cases occurred as shown in the following Table :—

Month.	WARDS.						Total Cases	No. of cases removed to Hospital
	Margam West	Margam Central	Margam North	Aberavon South	Aberavon North	Cwm- avon		
Jan.	0	0	0	2	5	0	7	5
Feb.	4	0	0	0	1	0	5	5
March	4	0	1	0	1	0	6	5
April	0	1	2	2	1	0	6	4
May	1	0	1	1	2	0	5	4
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	3	0	0	3	1	1	8	5
August	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sept.	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
October	1	1	0	0	1	2	5	4
Nov.	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	2
Dec.	1	2	2	1	0	0	6	5
Total	15	5	7	9	13	4	53	41

The above Table includes 3 cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

The number of houses affected was 50, and were as follows :—

47 houses with 1 case in each	47 cases.
3 houses with 2 cases in each	6 cases.
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	53 cases.

Diphtheria.

61 cases of Diphtheria were reported to me, and the following Table will show the experience in the six Wards of the district :—

Month.	WARDS.								Total Cases	No. of cases removed to Hospital
	Margam West	Margam Central	Margam North	Aberavon South	Aberavon North	Cwm-avon				
Jan.	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1		
Feb.	5	1	3	2	2	0	13	9		
March	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	2		
April	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1		
May	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		
June	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1		
July	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1		
Aug.	0	2	0	3	0	0	5	5		
Sept.	3	5	0	0	1	0	9	6		
Oct.	1	5	0	4	1	0	11	11		
Nov.	3	2	0	4	0	0	9	6		
Dec.	1	3	0	1	0	0	5	3		
Totals	18	20	3	15	5	0	61	47		

The number of houses affected was as follows :—

51 houses with 1 case in each	51 cases.
3 houses with 2 cases in each	6 cases.
1 house with 4 cases in each	4 cases.
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	61 cases.

Erysipelas.

7 cases were reported and occurred as follows :—

Month.	WARDS.						Total Cases
	Margam West	Margam Central	Margam North	Aberavon South	Aberavon North	Cwm-avon	
January	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
March	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
April	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
October	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	0	2	1	2	1	1	7

7 houses were affected, being one case in each.

Hospital.

During the year the following cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment :—

Scarlet Fever	41 cases.
Diphtheria	47 cases.
Total	88 cases.

Infected Room and Bedding.

During the year 284 inspections of premises where Infectious Diseases had occurred was made in connection with which 146 rooms and 144 parcels of bedding were disinfected, after the removal of the patients to hospital, or the termination of the case. Three parcels of bedding were removed for steam disinfection. One parcel of bedding was destroyed after a suspected case of Small Pox was removed to hospital for observation.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
House to House Inspections.....	368	—	—		
Other House Inspections.....	1996	—	—		
(a) Structural Defects	1337	205	203	110	39 shoots and downpipes fixed, 26 shoots repaired, 9 new windows fixed, 48 windows repaired, 2 new roofs fixed, 53 roofs repaired, 14 chimneys repaired, 23 grates repaired, 3 new grates fixed, 9 new doors fixed, 20 doors repaired, 32 new floors laid, 35 floors repaired, 8 partitions repaired, 50 plastering repaired, 27 waste pipes repaired, 7 gable ends cemented, 7 stairs repaired, 6 new ovens fixed, 6 boundary walls rebuilt, 15 walls made damp proof, 1 house concreted under floors, 2 new grates fixed, 1 new bath fixed, 2 ventilations provided under floors, 3 new scullery sinks fixed, 2 washing coppers fixed.

Summary of Annual Report.—Continued.

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	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
(b) Foul Conditions	677	204	203	24	175 systems of drains cleared, 15 dirty houses cleansed, 4 yards cleansed, 12 offensive ditches cleaned out.
(c) Overcrowding	8	2	1	—	3 nuisances abated.
(d) Unfit for Habitation.....	24	23	23	20	11 houses made reasonably fit for human habitation.
Schools	132	10	10	—	9 drains cleared, 1 water service repaired, 1 roof repaired, 2 waste pipes cleared, 3 drains repaired, 6 flushing tanks repaired, 6 new tanks fixed, 13 w.c.'s repaired, 11 w.c.'s limewashed, 1 ashbin provided.
Ashpits, Privies, & Cesspools	229	25	25	7	13 new pails provided, 13 cesspools filled up, 12 cesspools cleared out.
Stables, Refuse & Manure	394	37	37	1	31 accumulations removed, 3 stables removed from yards, 1 receptacle provided, 1 stable limewashed.

Summary of Annual Report.—Continued.

	Inspect-ions.	Nuisan-ces.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Pigstyes and Swinekeeping	305	27	27	12	29 pigstyes removed, 2 styes paved and drained, 1 offensive accumulation of hogwash removed.
Animals Improperly kept	100	31	31	3	25 nuisances abated.
Other Nuisances	62	7	7	1	1 nuisance from rats abated, 2 decomposing carcasses buried, 1 nuisance from obstruction over yard re-moved, 1 offensive exhaust pipe made good.
Slaughter-houses	134	1	1	—	1 slaughterhouse floor repaired.
Meat and Food	426	—	—	—	The following articles have been destroyed :— 1 ton 12 cwt. 1 qr. and 17 lbs. of beef, 78 lbs. of ox tails, 16 lbs. of ox kidneys, 15 lbs of ox liver, 13 ducks, 48 lbs., 27 rabbits, 1 carcase of pork, 20 tins of pine apple chunks, 1 bottle of preserved fruit, 4 tins of fish, 7 tins of tomatoes, 4 tins of milk, 1 tin of preserved meat.
Cowsheds and Dairies	501	66	64	9	15 dairies provided, 1 dairy roof repaired, 2 dairy

Summary of Annual Report.—Continued.

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	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Cowsheds & Dairies— <i>Continued</i>					walls made good, 24 cowsheds and dairies lime-washed, 11 cowsheds provided with new stalls and mangers, 11 cowshed floors re-constructed, 12 cowsheds drained, 10 cowsheds properly lighted, 10 cowsheds ventilated, 3 water supplies laid on, 11 accumulations of manure removed, 1 cowshed roof repaired, 4 lofts removed from over cows, 2 dirty milking infringements abated, 2 unregistered dairymen registered, 1 unsatisfactory dairy discontinued and dairymen removed register, 2 infringements from keeping of swine in cowshed abated, 1 infringement from stable communicating with dairy abated.
Water Supplies	556	97	96	61	17 water supplies laid on, 37 services repaired, 21 water services relaid, 38 new flushing tanks fixed, 80 flushing tanks repaired, 3 automatic tanks fixed.
Drains, Yards, & W.C.'s	2655	232	226	113	41 systems of drains relaid, 51 systems repaired, 3.

Summary of Annual Report.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work Done.
Drains, Yards & W.C.'s <i>Continued.</i>					systems of drains provided, 11 w.c.'s re-constructed, 86 w.c.'s repaired, 16 systems of drains ventilated, 6 soil and vent pipes repaired, 20 yards re-paved, 10 yards repaired, 5 new inspection chambers built, 2 pail closets converted into w.c.'s, 38 flushing tanks fixed, 80 flushing tanks repaired, 3 automatic tanks fixed.
Infectious Diseases	284	—	—	—	146 rooms and 144 parcels of bedding disinfected, 3 parcels of bedding removed for steam disinfection, 1 parcel of bedding destroyed.
Workshops & Bakehouses	245	26	26	9	13 bakehouses limewashed, 2 workshops cleansed, 2 sanitary arrangements partitioned off, 3 w.c.'s cleansed and limewashed, 3 cisterns covered and protected, 2 artificial lights provided, 1 new flushing tank fixed, 1 roof repaired, 1 waste pipe repaired, sanitary accommodation provided in 1 instance.

Summary of Annual Report.—Continued.

	Inspection.	Nuisances.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Work done.
Common Lodging Houses	28	—	—	—	
Offensive Trades	49	10	10	2	7 receptacles provided, 1 floor cleansed, 2 proper chimneys provided, 1 fish fryer removed from register.
Housing, Town Planning Inspections & Re-inspections	803	154	154	37	See Special Report.
Totals	11313	1157	1144	409	

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, etc. ACTS, 1909-1919.

The number of inspections and re-inspections made of houses dealt with under the above Acts was 803.

In 154 instances the premises were discovered to be not kept in a reasonable state of repair, and 154 Informal and 37 Statutory Notices were given.

In 25 instances the works required to comply with the Notices have been carried out, and in a number of instances the works necessary are in progress.

David's Row, Cwmavon.

In response to the service of 20 Informal Notices served in respect of David's Row, Cwmavon, a declaration was made by the Owners that it was their intention to close the houses as unfit for human habitation, and Closing Orders were made in respect of the same, Notices were also served upon the occupiers to quit the premises.

CLOSING ORDERS.

Closing Orders were also made in respect of the following premises, by reason of their dilapidated and dangerous condition :—

Bwlch Farm House, Cwmavon.
4, and 5, Pontycymmer Row, Cwmavon.
6, and 7, Graig-y-Tewgoed, Cwmavon.
75, and 77, Greenpark Street, Aberavon.

In one instance only has the Closing Order been obeyed, viz., in respect of 6, Graig-y-Tewgoed, Cwmavon.

Great difficulty is experienced in forcing compliance with the Closing Orders, made by reason of the inability of providing the displaced tenants with suitable alternative accommodation, and so long as present conditions as to house shortage

exists, there does not appear to be any good purpose achieved by the making of Closing Orders in respect of unfit houses as even though made, there is very little possibility of its being practicable for them to be obeyed.

CLOSING ORDERS DETERMINED.

The two Closing Orders made in the year 1922, in respect of 12, and 13, Maesteg Road, Bryn, were determined during the past year.

Practically the whole of the fronts of these two houses were taken down and reconstructed in order to make the same in a safe condition.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

I beg to submit my report in connection with the above premises for the year ending December 31st, 1923.

Workshops.

245 inspections were made in connection with Factories and Workshops, during the course of which 26 nuisances were discovered. Informal Notices was given in 26 instances, and 9 Statutory Notices were served, and the works carried out are set out below.

A new register has been compiled during the year, and contains 153 workshops. 12 new workshops were added to the register and 8 removed.

These premises may now be classified as follows :—

Blacksmiths	8
Bottling Works	1
Boat Builders	1
Carpenters and Joiners	12
Cabinet Makers	5
Cycle Repairers	3
Coach and Motor Builders	6

Dressmakers	5
Flannel Making	1
Hay and Corn Stores	2
Laundries	1
Milliners	10
Painters	4
Printers	5
Plumbers	8
Rag Sorters	2
Stone Dressers	3
Shoemakers and Repairs	18
Sugar Boilers	2
Sausage Manufacturers	7
Stocking Making, etc.	1
Saddlers	1
Tailors	10
Wagon Repairers	1
Weight and Scale Makers	1
Wheelwrights	2
Wood Choppers	1
Ice Cream Manufactory	1
Bakehouses	31

SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Workshops.

There are 122 workshops other than bakehouses registered in the Borough. During the course of the inspections made during the year, a number of nuisances were discovered, and upon service of Notice the following works were carried out :

2 Workshops cleansed, 3 w.c.'s cleansed and lime-washed, 1 New flushing tank fixed, 1 Roof repaired, 1 Waste pipe repaired, 2 Sanitary conveniences partitioned off, Artificial light provided in 2 instances, Sanitary accommodation provided in 1 instance.

Bakehouses.

There are 31 registered bakehouses in the Borough, an increase of 2 over last year. These premises are kept in a fairly clean state, the chief nuisance being discovered arising from the want of limewashing. Notices to remedy nuisances were served in 16 instances with the following results :—

13 Bakehouses limewashed, 3 Water storage cisterns properly covered.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Wm. F. Bishop.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

April 1st, 1924.





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